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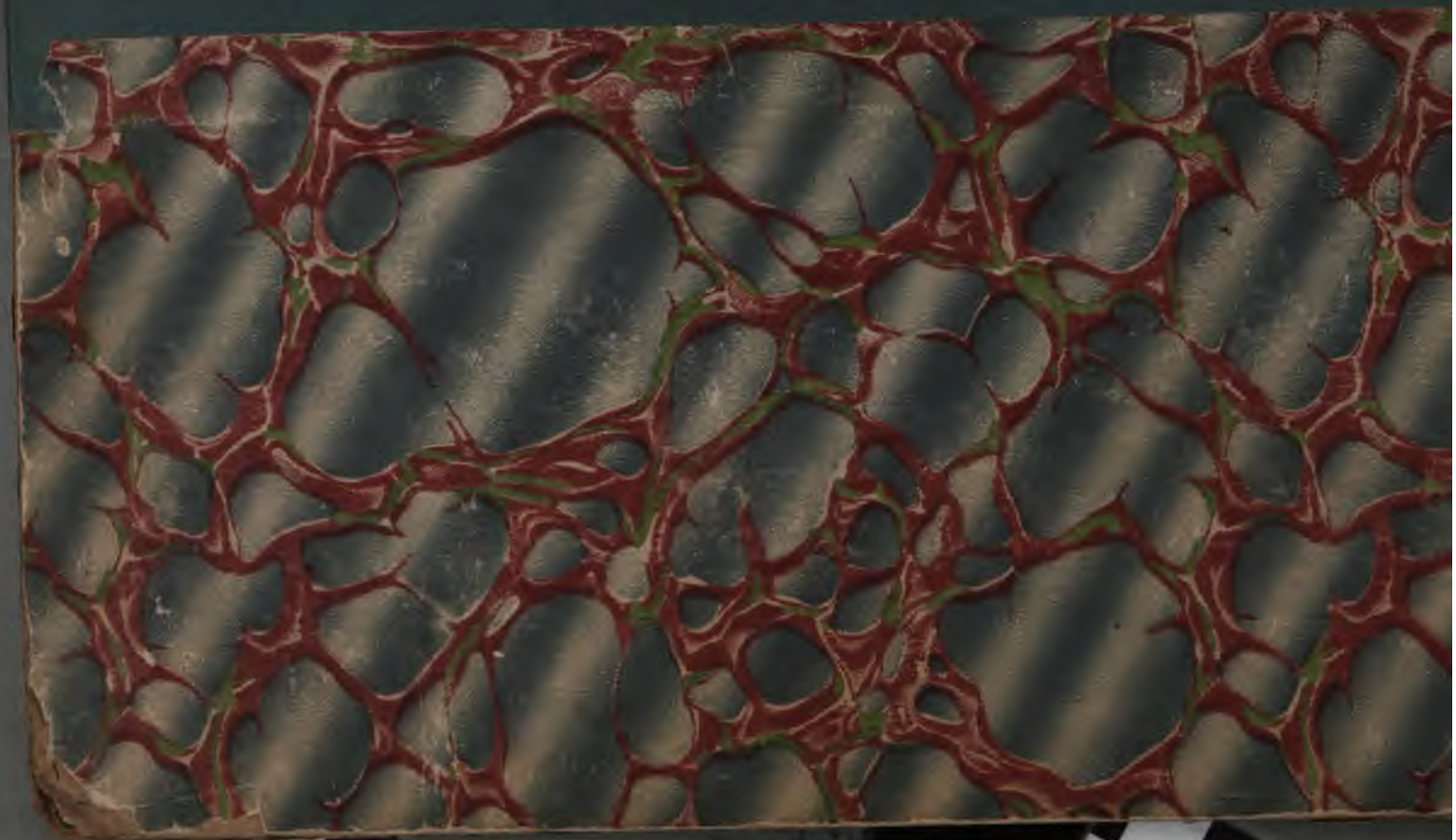
The National Armories - 1852



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THE

NATIONAL ARMORIES,

A REVIEW

OF THE

SYSTEM OF SUPERINTENDENCY, CIVIL AND MILITARY,

PARTICULARLY WITH REFERENCE TO

ECONOMY,

AND

GENERAL MANAGEMENT

AT THE

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY.

SPRINGFIELD, MASS., NOV. 1852.
SECOND EDITION.

SPRINGFIELD:
G. W. WILSON'S STEAM POWER PRESSES.
1852.

and it is one object of the papers now collected, to give the public, and especially members of congress, some insight into this extravagance.

The change in the superintendence of the Armories was made originally on the suggestion of the Ordnance Department. Subsequently, in June, 1842, an attempt was made to give the sanction of law to this change by an amendment inserted by the committee on military affairs of the Senate, in a Bill "respecting the organization of the army." When this amendment was first acted on by the Senate, it was struck out; and the Senate refused to sanction this change by a vote of 23 to 14. Afterwards on an extraordinary representation made in writing by Col. Talcott, and laid upon the desk of each senator, that vote was rescinded, and the amendment inserted. In August, 1842, the Bill was taken up in the House; and the section establishing the military superintendence was, after debate, struck out by a vote of 102 to 77. This led to a conference between the two Houses, which resulted in a report to restore the section legalizing the military superintendency: but the House *refused to adopt the report*, and another conference was held. Finally a similar report to the foregoing was made, and received the reluctant consent of the House—the session then drawing to a close, and the Bill, in which the amendment was inserted, being one which all agreed must pass. But for the maneuvre or extraordinary proceedure of the then Col. — but now *or lately* Gen. — Talcott, it is believed the military superintendency would never have been sanctioned.

Thus was this anomaly established of placing citizens—mere citizens—under the command of military officers. And hence have followed, legitimately, well-founded complaints of harsh, ungenerous and oppressive treatment, which led to the petitioning of Congress for the restoration of the old system of civil superintendency, for which a Bill was reported at the late Session, which, it is hoped and believed will become a law before the third of March next

TO THE PUBLIC.

The facts herewith presented, have for the most part appeared in a series of letters in the "Boston Traveller" within the past three months; they were mostly copied from official public documents, and all from reliable and authentic sources.

Great care has been taken to avoid any errors whatever, and what has been placed before the public has been carefully examined by persons who have had long experience in the Armory, as officers and workmen Officers *now* having the charge of the Armory have also been requested to point out errors if there are any.

It seems on looking over the whole subject, that the conclusion is unavoidable, that there has been, for a series of years, a systematic practice at this Armory of prodigality in expenditure, and of deception in regard to the disposition of the public money, and that no such management would have been tolerated under a civil administration. The pretext on which the change of system was made that it would effect a saving in expenditure, has most certainly proved delusive, as has also the assertion that the condition of the workmen is improved, the reverse having been shown to be the case. The subject of a change of system, being now before Congress, I hope it is not too much to expect that the facts brought to light will be of service in its final disposition. C. S.

Springfield, November, 1852.

NOTE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

A few typographical and other errors which escaped notice in the first edition, have been corrected in this.

There has also been inserted in its proper place, commencing on page 41, about two pages of new matter, which was inadvertently omitted in the first edition.

AUGUST 13, 1852.

Mr. GORMAN, from the Committee on Military Affairs made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom were referred the petitions of sundry citizens of Virginia, praying for the discontinuance of the military, and for the restoration of the civil superintendencies at the national armories of the United States, have, according to order, had the same under consideration, and submit the following report:

There are now in the United States two National Armories for the manufacture of small arms, one situated at Springfield, in the State of Massachusetts, the other at Harper's Ferry, in the State of Virginia. These manufactories have been, from their first establishment, at a very early period of our government, until the first day of April, 1841, under the management and control of superintendents selected from the civil pursuits of life, and distinguished for their energy, capacity, and peculiar fitness for the duties of their station. A reference to the consecutive annual reports made to Congress for many years, will show that during the entire period that these manufactories were under the management of persons so selected, the highest testimony is uniformily borne, by the departments to which they were responsible, to the vigor and efficiency of the system then existing, to the general economy of their management, to the order and subordination prevalent in them, and to the gratifying and increasing improvement in the machinery used, and in the excellence of the fire-arms fabricated there. Contentment and order prevailed among the operatives; permanent residences were acquired by the intelligent mechanics there employed; and active zeal was manifested for the public interests, and mechanical skill and ingenuity stimulated to its highest point, from which the government has received inappreciable benefits. These manufactories have been, since 1815, under the supervision and control of the ordnance department.

In 1839, a change was made in the head of the Ordnance Department, and Lieutenant Colonel Talcott, was transferred to the place, for many years before filled by Colonel George Bomford. By refering to the official reports of that and the subsequent year, it will be seen that Colonel Talcott, who afterwards took a conspicuous part in accomplishing a change in the administrative policy of those armories, was forced to bear his testimony to the results of the system there in operation.

In his report of the 29th of November, 1839, he says: "The superiority of the small arms recently fabricated over those formerly made,

evinces the utility of public establishments for improving this branch of manufacture." And in his report of the 30th of November, he says: "The manufacture of muskets according to the new model has been successfully established at both of the National Armories. The substitution hereafter of percussion instead of flint locks, which is becoming general in Europe, will render the arms as *nearly perfect* as can be attained, and, judging from the specimen of foreign arms of the most approved patterns, recently imported, *decidedly superior to any arms of foreign manufacture.*"

A short time subsequent to the transfer of Colonel Talcott, four officers of the board of Ordnance were designated by the Secretary of War to proceed to Europe, and visit the most important arsenals, cannon foundries, and manufactories of small arms. And having spent a few months in the discharge of the duties assigned to them, they returned and made their report in November, 1840. From the period of the return of this commission from Europe, the purpose seems to have been systematically and pertinaciously pursued by the head of that department to place the national armories of the United States under the same administrative system which was found to prevail in somewhat similar establishments in some of the most despotic monarchies of Europe. If any effort was made, as doubtless it was, to influence the then Secretary of War, the Hon. Joel R. Poinsett, to favor this change, that effort proved wholly unsuccessful.

On the 4th of March, 1841, a new administration came into power, when Mr. Bell, yielding too ready an ear to the suggestions and recommendation of the ordnance officers, on the 1st of April, 1841, within a few weeks after his appointment as Secretary of War, dismissed the civil superintendents from office, and appointed military officers to take the charge of these establishments. How far this step was in accordance with, or in violation of law, the committee will not stop here to inquire. They have no hesitation, however, in expressing their opinion, that it was harsh and ill-judged—unjust to, and oppressive upon the mechanics employed in the public service, and in no respect promotive of the interests of the government.

In the session of 1841-2, the attention of Congress was invited to the subject, and it is much to be regretted that it was not brought forward as an independent measure of policy, instead of being blended as it was with the provisions of a bill for the general re-organization of the army. And yet, even in that form, when first submitted to the Senate, that body, by a vote of near two to one, after debate, struck out the section legalizing the military superintendencies. A change of opinion was subsequently produced in that body by a manuscript statement of important facts, prepared and signed by the head of the Ordnance Department, and placed upon the desk of each Senator on the morning of the day upon which the bill was acted upon, and which statement it is confidently beleived and asserted could not then and cannot now be sustained by impartial evidence. In the House of

Representatives the opposition to the introduction of th emilitary system into our national armories was decided, firm and unyielding, until the differences between the two Houses reached that point that it became necessary to yield to this feature of the Senate's bill, or loose altogether an important measure of general policy.

It was under these circumstances that this system, of which precedents can only be found among the most despotic monarchies of Europe, was carried—a measure which resulted in driving from employment hundreds of the most intelligent and valuable mechanics which this government ever had in its employment, and which now operates with a crushing and deadning influence upon the spirits and enterprise of those whose necessities still force them into the service of this branch of the government.

The committee, after the most careful examination, have not been able to perceive one beneficial result which has been derived to the government from the substitution of the military for the civil superintendency.

It has not reduced the price of the musket, but on the contrary, when the large outlay for new machinery is estimated; when the price of labor and materials under the two systems—the substitution of the percussion for the flint lock—are considered, the price must be regarded under the present system as greater than it was under the former.

It has not promoted economy in the general expenditure of these establishments, but on the contrary a tendency to waste, and extravagance has been manifested in tearing down buildings before deemed ample and commodious, and in the erection of dwellings of unnecessary size and magnificence, and other expenditures made there, all of which will appear in the large appropriations asked from Congress and made for such purposes.

The principal argument relied upon for the change of system was, that it was an item of a plan for a general reduction of expenses. It was said that the ordnance officers were already in the employment of the government at fixed pay without sufficient duties to perform; that they could be conveniently spared as substitutes for the civil superindents, and that thus the government could be saved the salary of two useless officers. "The expense," argued the chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs in the Senate, "saved by the transfer of military men to these places, it is true, would not be much, yet the change would effect the abolition of two useless officers." The utter futility of this ground of economy for the proposed change is manifest not only in the fact that the ordnance corps has been since that time largely increased, but in the increased outlay of money upon those establishments since the introduction of the military system.

Not only has the existing system been without any beneficial results to the government, but its operation has been injurious in the adoption and extension of a principle hostile to the character and genius of our institutions, and in the spirit of deep seated discontent which it has produced among the operatives wherever it has been enforced.

Military discipline is proper and necessary among men trained for the purposes of war. It is wholly unsuited to a civil establishment, and is illy adapted to the tastes of our free-born mechanics. The annoying and vexatious restrictions to which they are subjected without any corresponding benefit to the government, the extent to which their enterprise and spirit are crushed by petty regulations and despotic orders, should cause a paternal government to look with aversion upon any system acompanied by such results

The free and independent mechanics of this nation constitute one of the strongest pillars of its support, and no system should for a moment be tolerated among us that impairs their sense of personal independence, that degrades them to mere machines of labor, and places them under restrictions that would be revolting to a slave. "The discipline of the army," remarked a distinguished senator in the debate of 1842, "was essentially and absolutely despotic and utterly inconsistent with freedom in a state of peace; and it was on this account that so much discontent had been experienced and so many complaints made against the superintendence of military officers over the construction of the public highways. The armories were great workshops and you might as well appoint an officer to superintend a mill because flour and meal are necessary to the subsistence of the army, as to appoint him to superintend the manufacture of arms merely because he is instructed in the use of arms." "Wherever such an experiment has been tried," observed another distinguished senator, "it has been found to produce disastrous consequenses."

Why, indeed, should military men desire such situations? It would seem to us that their true ambition would lead them to desire a place in the line of their duty; in the command of men trained and disciplined to arms, and not to be thrown into a position of constant collision with artisans and mechanics, who, unused to the rigid restraints of military life, and unacustomed to the dialect of the canp, feel a sense of degradation in submitting to restrictions, which however appropriate in the camp, are only productive of irritation in the civil employments of life.

The committee, therefore, being of the opinion that the military superintendencies now established at the national armories should be abolished, and the civil superintendents restored, beg leave to submit the accompanying bill.

Mr. GORMAN, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported the following bill:

A BILL to restore the civil superintendencies of National Armories at Harper's Ferry and Springfield.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That so much of the

second section of the act of Congress approved on the twenty-third of August, one thousand eight hundred and forty-two, as abolishes the offices of superintendents of the armories of Springfield and Harper's Ferry, and provides that the duties thereof shall be performed by such officers of the ordnance corps as may be designated by the President, be, and the same is hereby repealed; and hereafter the said duties shall be performed by superintendents to be appointed by the President, at the compensation heretofore provided for such persons by the thirty-second section of the act of Congress, approved the fifth of July, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight.

THE NATIONAL ARMORIES.

The subject of the superintendence of the National Armories is now under consideration before Congress. Petitions signed by large numbers of respectable citizens living in Springfield and vicinity, and at Harper's Ferry, Virginia, and the neighborhood, were presented to Congress in the early part of the last session, asking the restoration of the civil superintendency of the armories, which had been transfered to military command about ten years ago.

The committee on military affairs of the House of Representatives, after a full investigation of the facts as presented to them, have reported a bill providing for the change, and this subject is among the unfinished business of the last session

The report of the Committee will be found to contain very strong reasons for the change they recommended, based on the official reports of the War Department, and other reliable authority—fully sustaining the allegations of the petitioners. Since this report was made, other facts more particularly respecting the Armory at Springfield have been brought out, which, when presented to the government, will it is presumed have an influence in maturing the plan of restoring the civil superindency, and placing *citizen* artizans once more under the direction of civil officers.

It is well known that the military Commandant "at Springfield, is using every exertion to perpetuate the military rule, and has endeavored to give the impression, that he has effected great improvements in the establishment, and more particularly that he has caused a great reduction in the cost of the musket, as well as improved the quality of the article very materially; and moreover that his administration is marked by the "vigor and *economy*" with which it has been conducted.

These claims have been put forth through various channels and at convenient times for several years past, but more particularly during the past year. First in the Springfield Republican in an article published

about a year since, giving an account of the business of the Town of Springfield, in which it is stated that "in ten years—meaning the ten years of military command—the cost of manufacture per musket has been reduced nearly one half, it being in the year 1841, $17,44," while the "cost the past year was $7,75½." This statement was furnished by the officers of the Armory, and received the sanction of the Commandant, and it has been extensively copied into other publications. Within a few months past an elaborate account of the Armory has appeared in Harper's Magazine, in which it is stated, "that the cost of manufacturing each musket immediately before the commencement of the term of the present Commander, was about seventeen dollars and a half. During the past year it has been eight dollars and three quarters, and yet the men are paid better wages now per day or rather they are paid at such rates for their work that they can make more now per day than then. The saving has thus not been at all made from the pay of the workmen, but wholly from the introduction of new and important modes of manufacture, better machines, a superior degree of order, system and economy in every department, and other similar causes. At the time of Col. Ripley's appointment, the works were in a very imperfect condition compared with their present state, and he has succeeded in bringing up the establishment to a state of very high perfection."

A memorial to Congress was drawn up and circulated by the Commandant and his friends, designed to counteract the memorials of the Citizens asking the change, which boldly states, that "new vigor and *economy* has been infused into every part of the establishment, to the great benefit of the community in which it is situated as well as to the great saving of money to the government

That during that time, the cost of the musket *has been reduced more than seven dollars*; and this of itself with the high character of the men employed, and their increased thrift furnishes conclusive proof, and a triumphant answer to every loose complaint that can be made."

And an article in the New York Courier and Inquirer, in the early part of August last, making statements reiterating those quoted above, with the addition of others quite as unfounded, asserting that the movement to restore the civil superentendency of the Armories was a party one, that "political demagogues of the districts where they were situated, are looking only to their own interests, and constantly striving to "*re-obtain*" possession of the workshops in order that they may *again* be prostituted to the vilest political purposes."

This article also boldly charges the report of the Military Committee to be a forgery.

The assumptions contained in the memorial are substantially the same that have been put forth in other publications, and having the facts in my possession from official and authentic sources to *disprove and refute every one of them*, it is astonishing that any one should have the boldness to put them forth.—I will make a single exception, and

that is, in regard to the "high character of the men employed." I *know* that the author of the Memorial does *them* no more than justice, yet if it is meant that the character of the men now employed is higher than that of those who were employed under the civil administration, I deny the claim, and I presume the men themselves would never make it.

Preliminary to my strictures upon the military government of the Armory I shall give a brief history of the establishment at Springfield, which will be of use in illustrating the working of the two systems in question.

The United States Armory at Springfield, was commenced under the charge of the late David Ames, Esq, near sixty years ago. It was for several years a very small establishment, giving employment to but few men. It was increased considerably just before and during the war of 1812, at which time it was under the superintendence of Benjamin Prescott, Esq. Col. Roswell Lee, was appointed to the superintendency in 1815, since which time until a year or two past, the number of men have not been greatly increased, and the amount of produce with the exception of last year has not been greater than it was twenty years ago. Indeed the number of arms fabricated from 1841 to 1851 did not quite equal the number produced during the ten years immediately previous. Until a short time before the appointment of Col. Lee, the armorers were for the most part transient unmarried men,—who seldom remained auy considerable time in the public employ; they were during the superintendence of Mr Ames, enlisted like common soldiers, and until the close of the Superintendence of Col. Prescott, they drew their rations like common soldiers.

Col. Lee, who was a practical gunsmith, saw the disadvantages of a constant change of hands, and took measures to remedy the evil, by holding out inducements to the men to remain permanently. Inasmuch as the government owned but few dwelling houses, he encouraged the men to provide themselves with houses, assuring them that they might calculate on permanent employment, so long as the government continued the manufacture of arms, and their conduct and workmanship continued good. With this impression a large proportion of the men invested their spare earnings in neat and comfortable dwellings; and gradually the whole character of the establishment was changed, advantageously for the individual Armorers, the community and the government. The workmen for the most part living off the public grounds, became permanent citizens, and by intermarriage and other social relations were as much undistinguished from the community in which they lived, as if they had been engaged in other branches of business. It is sufficient proof of the "high character of the men employed," to state, that in various elective offices of honor and trust, the workmen have furnished their proportion, and two out of the four members of the present House of Representatives from Springfield, are Armorers: one of whom is now at work at his bench, and the other after thirty five years service, retired soon after the accession of the

present military superintendent, and for the last thirty years it has been usual that when Springfield could elect representatives at all, one of the members was an armorer; several are now members of our City Government, and it is not for lack of the nececsary qualifications that there are not more in that honorable station.

At the decease of Col. Lee, in 1833, his successor, Mr. John Robb, pursued in the main the same policy; and under the charge of both these gentlemen, the affairs of the Armory were conducted in the most thorough and economical manner giving entire satisfaction to the successive heads of the War Department who occasionally visited and inspected the Armory.

On the accession of Mr. Bell as Secretary of War in 1841, he was beset by members of the Ordance Corps, who coveted the posts of Superintendents of Armories, and by dint of their misrepresentations he was induced to yeild to their importunities; the order went forth, and Major James Wolfe Riply a Military officer was put in place of Mr Robb.

If the Secretary could have foreseen the enormous abuses which have followed in the train of this appointment he would have been the last man to have given it his official sanction.

At this time no change had been made in the law that would warrant the appointment of a military officer to a civil post; but during the long session of Congress in 1842 the efforts which had been making by interested individuals for several years to effect a change from a civil to a military Superintendent were successful.

While the contemplated change was under discussion in Congress, the subject very naturally excited the attention of the citizens of Springfield and the vicinity, as it contemplated an entire change of system, doubtless even to the return practically, to the odious and exploded practice of enlistments and rations. Therefore, a large portion of the Citizens moved by these considerations as well as by their regard for the interests of the Government, called public meetings: and many of those who were in the habit of taking a leading part in such matters' were active in those movements, among others, the recent member of Congress from the sixth district stood prominent. Resolutions were prepared and passed deprecating the proposed change as being fraught with present and prospective evils. (Note A.) Committees of Armorers and Citizens were appointed, and the Gentleman I have alluded to was one, but other engagements prevented him from performing this duty. These Committees proceeded to Washington to make proper representations to the Government, and a memorial couched in strong but appropriate terms was presented to Congress signed by the Committees. (Note B.) Experience has fully proved, that the evils apprehended as expressed in the resolutions and the memorial refered to, have been fully realized. Notwithstanding the efforts of these Gentlemen, and the exertions of the able member of Congress who represented this district at the time the Military interest prevailed, and the appointment of Major Ripley was legalized.

Shortly after the Military "Commandant" was invested with his new powers, he discharged from employment some forty or fifty men, and a few months afterwards he dismissed the entire body, except enough to take care of the property, and suspended the operations altogether. This was done on the unfounded pretext, of making repairs, when there were no repairs done or needed which made it necessary to discharge a single man. No one has since doubted, that the real motive for the suspension of operations was, to humble the workmen for *daring* to petition Congress to spare them from the infliction of a military superintendent. Whatever the motive was, the effect on the men and their families was extremely severe.

As a body, the men in the Armory had worked hard and lived comfortably on the fruits of their labors. During the quarter of a century of the superintendency of Col. Lee and Mr. Robb, they had been so thoroughly sifted, that they compared very favorably with the average of mechanics and artizans in New England, and no class of citizens contributed more freely of their hard earnings than they towards the support of the valued institutions of religion, morality, and education. But except what they had invested in their dwellings and their appendages, very few possessed any means beyond what they earned from month to month: consequently as winter approached, after several months' idleness, and after making repeated applications for work, and receiving little encouragement, their prospects became extremely gloomy. In order to realize the condition of these men, it should be borne in mind, that having for a series of years been encouraged with the expectation of steady employment, the men had in a manner planted themselves, by investing all their means in fixtures, which, under this state of things, could not be disposed of without a ruinous sacrifice, besides which they were illy fitted to go into other occupations. Under these circumstances a Citizen volunteered to represent their case to the head of the Ordinance department at Washington: and after hearing the circumstances, that officer made a strongly implied promise, that as fast as men were needed, these men should be preferred and set at work; but they were doomed to disappointment; not a single individual who had been discharged was employed—two only excepted—these were set at work at the solicitations of a lady.

During this time the shops were filling up with men from abroad, many of whom had no experience in any manufacturing or mechanical employment, most of whom were as unpractised in the manufacture of a musket as the Commandant himself, who it was it was notorious, did not know the *names* even of a majority of the parts composing the musket. The result was, after a year or more from the suspension, some of the old hands were re-employed—mostly from the necessity of having their skill, but by far the greater part of them were obliged to sell their little property, or dispose of it as they best could, and go into other pursuits, or find occasional work abroad in the same branches; and it is not too much to say, that the course pursued by

the Commandant operated to the *ruin* of more than one hundred worthy workmen and causing great distress to their families.

The workings of the system now in operation I propose to illustrate by facts having a bearing on the subject. In accordance with this purpose, I now present abstracts from official returns to the general Government, giving the amount appropriated, the amount expended, and the number of arms fabricated at the Springfield Armory in each year, from 1831 to 1840 inclusive, under civil superintendence, and following this, the returns from the year 1842 to 1851 inclusive, under Military rule, and I ask an attentive examination of the results.

The assertions which have gone forth to the world, without the least reserve or explanation of circumstances, were designed to establish the fact, that the Military Superintendent of the Armory had really affected a very large reduction in the cost of the musket, from what it cost under the supervision of his predecessors. The statement itself appeared monstrous and incredible, yet few but practical men could detect its fallacy; but fortunately for the cause of truth, the *facts* are at hand that detect and expose it most thoroughly, and without further preface I here give them from official authority. I admit in the outset, that in the year 1840, owing to circumstances hereafter to be explained, the *apparent* cost of the musket was $17,44; therefore, in making the average of the cost, I leave that year out of the calculation.

STATEMENT OF THE ANNUAL COST OF THE MUSKET FROM 1822 TO 1840, FROM OFFICIAL RETURNS.

In 1822	$11 50	In 1831	$11 44
1823	11 45	1832	11 66
1824	11 27	1833	12 39
1825	10 50	1834	11 05
1826	10 47	1835	10 93
1827	10 49	1836	11 07
1828	10 50	1837	11 69
1829	10 02	1838	11 84
1830	10 80	1839	11 79

The average cost in 18 consecutive years, under civil superintendency, leaving out of the calculation the year 1840, is eleven dollars, fifteen cents, eight mills, ($11,15,8)

STATEMENT OF THE COST OF THE MUSKET FROM 1840 TO 1851, FROM ARMORY AUTHORITY.

In 1841	$16 53	In 1847	$10 56
1842	13 58	1848	10 60
1843	13 26	1849	9 88
1844	11 76	1850	9 03
1845	11 02	1851	8 75
1846	10 74		

The average reported cost in eleven consecutive years under military command, leaving out of the calculation the year 1840, is eleven dollars, forty-two cents, eight mills, ($11,42 8), being an increase in the cost, of twenty-seven cents under the military command over the cost under civil superintendency.

The reason why the year 1840 should be left out of both calculations is, that during that year the *model* of the musket was essentially changed, and a large portion of the workmen being employed in getting up and arranging new tools and machinery to apply to the new model, there were less than six thousand muskets made that year, and yet the amount expended was about two-thirds the usual average expenditure, and that sum divided into the number of muskets made, showed a cost of over seventeen dollars each. It will therefore be readily seen that the cost that year could not be fairly made a basis of the cost of the arms under any administration.

I shall give some very good reasons why the cost of the musket *ought* to have been reduced very materially during the past ten years, the principal of which follow :

First—The reduction in the cost of the raw material, such as iron, steel, coal, &c. I have not the data at hand to fix the exact reduction, on the cost of these articles, but I find that in 1841 the whole cost of the material of which the musket was composed was as near five dollars as may be; allowing 20 per cent. as a reduction on the articles named, the amount will be one dollar, $1,00

Second—The less cost of the percussion lock from the old fashioned flint lock, say twenty-five cents, 25

Third—The reduction in the pay of the workmen on the different parts, which is not less than two dollars, 2,00

This is a low estimate when the fact is taken into the account that the men now are obliged to furnish their own files and oil, ——

Making in the whole at least three dollars and twenty-five cts., $3,25 that the musket *ought* to have been reduced in cost, provided the workmen have been cut down in their pay as above estimated.

It will be seen that the first year under the military rule the musket cost about 50 per cent more than the average cost under the civil superintendency : the two succeeding years the cost was 20 per cent more and the three next years the average cost still overrun, notwithstanding the circumstances above stated, and the practice adopted of charging the expense of repairs of buildings and machinery and the salaries of Commandant and some other officers to "special appropriations."

The production of the unprecedented number of 23,000 muskets in the year 1851 may be mainly accounted for by the fact, that the men were compelled to work *over hours*, and a large portion worked several hours before and after the *regular* hours for men who worked by the day.—This also accounts for the fact that the men earned fair wages, notwithstanding the reduction of the price paid for piece work.

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY UNDER CIVIL SUPERINTENDENCE.

Year	Amount appropriated.	Amount expended.	No. of arms fabricated
1831 Annual	$180,000	$194,318 61	16,500
1832 "	180,000	182,649 58	13,000
1833 "	180,000		
" Special	25,100	178,918 18	12,400
1834 Annual	180,000		
" Special	25,500	184,573 03	14,000
1835 Annual	165,000	164,959 92	13,000
1836 "	165,000		
" Special	45,000	186,607 79	13,500
1837 Annual	180,000	222,843 32	14,500
1838 "	180,000	187,902 90	15,000
1939 "	180,000		
" Special	20,000	131,441 05	10,000
1840 Annual	180,000		
" Special	10,500	135,486 57	5,976
	$1,896,100	$1,769,700 95	127,876

Average cost from 1831 to 1840, inclusive, basing the calculation on the whole amount expended, is $13 84. From this should be deducted the fair value of the betterments to the Armory during these ten years, paid for out of the special appropriations.

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY UNDER MILITARY COMMAND.

Year	Amount appropriated.	Amount expended.	No. of arms fabricated
1842 Annual	$175,000		
" Special	20,000	$156,131 72	9720
1843 Annual	150,000		
" Special	26,000	78,816 13	4600
1844 Annual	100,000		
" Special	25,000	139,240 70	7890
1845 Annual	180,000		
" Special	29,500	173,047 24	11,379
1846 Annual	150,000		
" Special	125,000	214,324 57	14,265
1847 Annual	180,000		
" Special	18 500	253,304 84	14,501
1848 Annual	180,000		
" Special	96,000	227,544 21	16,069
1849 Annual	180,000		
" Special	91,500	261,475 14	16,215
1850 Annual	180,000		
" Special	65,000	243,096 79	10,155
1851 Annual	180,000		
" Special	47,000	271,308 33	23,000
	$2,190,000	$2,018,289 87	127,794

Average cost from 1842 to 1851, inclusive, on 127,794 muskets, is $15 78. From this should be deducted the fair value of the betterments to the Armory during these ten years, paid for out of the special appropriations.

By these tables it appears that during the 10 years of civil superintendency, the whole appropriation for the Armory was $1,896,100, of which $126,000 was *special* and not designed to be applied to the cost of fabrication of arms.

In the succeeding 10 years, under military rule, (always omitting the year 1840 from both calculations,) the appropriations for fabrication amounted to $2,193,100, of which $1,675,000 was designed for the manufacture of the musket, leaving the enormous amount of five hundred and forty-three thousand one hundred dollars ($543,100) to be applied to other purposes—or $417,100 more than was *appropriated*, and about the same sum more expended in the same length of time than under the civil administration of the Armory.

By the preceding statement it appears, that besides the usual annual appropriations to be applied to the production of the musket, there has been a large amount of money granted under the designation of special appropriations. These appropriations were designed to cover the expenses of such improvements or betterments as might be judged advisable from time to time. It will have been noticed that the amount appropriated under this head, was vastly greater under the military rule than in an equal period of time under the preceeding administrations, —the difference amounting to over forty thousand dollars a year. It should also be distinctly understood, that in making up the cost of the musket, under the civil management, the wear and tear of machinery and buildings, was reckoned into the cost, as it should be, and no part of the sums designated under the head of "special," was used in the musket, but that money was strictly applied to the particular objects for which it was required, and the expense of keeping the entire establishment in good order, including the salary of the superintendents was charged to the musket. The practice under the present system has been widely different, and that deviation in practise, makes a very great difference in the apparent cost—probably much more than has been allowed in the preceeding estimates.

I propose to trace out and bring to view the principal items of expense under both systems of supervision, which ought properly to be placed to the account of betterments, or permanent improvements; and here I wish to remark that truth is my aim in these investigations, and I have taken great pains to get facts as they exist; and after consulting the best authorities I have much confidence that no essential statement that I may make will be refuted.

After the facts within my reach are spread out, the results of the experiment of placing a military officer having no experience in mechanical matters in charge of a large manufacturing establishment will be easily estimated, and the "economy" of the system can be appreciated.

"*Economy*," as defined by Webster, "is a frugal and judicious use of money;" that management which expends money to advantage, and incurs no waste; frugality in the necessary expenditure of money; it differs from parsimony, which implies an improper saving of expense." This is the definition of the word "economy" from the highest authority, and I intend to have particular reference to its signification in the remarks which I may make on the management under both systems of supervision. During the last ten years of civil superintendency there was an aggregate amount of one hundred and twenty six thousand dollars, appropriated for special purposes, and the following improvements were made.

FIRST. Four brick storehouses for charcoal, each having several brick partitions costing about $2000 each, $ 8,000

The necessity for these storehouses with partitions, arose from the fact that there had been repeated losses of coal houses by fires, which was usually communicated by coal imperfectly extinguished when brought from the pit, and large masses of coal have been destroyed from that cause, which the separation into smaller quantities prevents.

SECOND. The large brick middle water shop, rebuilt, with new water wheels, flumes, forges, tilt hammers, cylinder bellows, &c., for the same, the cost of which was about 12,000

THIRD. A new bridge across mill river at the Upper Water shop, 600

FOURTH. The large brick Upper Water shop, including new water wheels, flumes, shafting, and grinding room, fixtures for the same, 18,500

FIFTH. Brick house built for the Paymaster, 4,000

SIXTH. Brick house built for the Master Armorer, 4,000

SEVENTH. Four brick houses for the Armory clerks, $2,500 each, 10,000

EIGHTH. Brick building designed for the Paymaster's office and for storing patterns, &c., 1,800

NINTH. The new machine shop on the hill, 4,500

TENTH. New machinery purchased during nine of the ten years which, by official returns amounts to 40,449 51

$103,549 51

This machinery includes much that is now in use in the armory, and it also includes the new tools and machinery prepared for the new model musket in 1840, and which in that year alone amounted to $10,906 16.

The above items absorbed about $104,000 of the $126,100 appropriated for special purposes in the ten years under consideration. Besides the improvements enumerated, the center Arsenal, throughout the entire three stories, was fitted up with double racks for arranging the muskets on the present beautiful plan. New iron shutters were

also provided for the same Arsenal. The buildings and fences of the whole establishment were kept thoroughly painted, and no part of them were suffered to be "neglected," or to become "dilapidated." The different dwelling houses were indispensable to the accommodation of the officers of the Armory, and several of them were projected and commenced under the superintendency of Lieut. Col. George Talcott, who had for a few months the charge of the Armory, during the disability of the late Col. Lee. Mr. Robb, his successor, completed them and made the other valuable improvements, and the works passed from his hands in the best state of repair, and the expenses incurred were applied in accordance with strict "*economy*," as defined by Webster.

I shall now show the purposes for which the very considerable sum of five hundred forty-three thousand, one hundred dollars has been applied, so far as the information can be acquired.

In order to give an intelligible view of the mode which is adopted to procure the appropriations of money for special objects, I will transcribe a copy of the estimates for the year 1843 and onward, which are the earliest in my possession. They are as follows:—

ESTIMATES FOR 1842–3.

1.	For erecting a steam drying house, with the necessary fixtures and apparatus for seasoning stocks,	$ 7,500
2.	For new machinery,	6,000
3.	For repairs and improvements,	10,000
4.	For two large reservoirs, $1,500 each,	3,000
		$26,500

REMARKS OF THE COMMANDANT.

1. The seasoning gun stocks in a short time, and preventing the necessity of laying in so large a supply as is required to be kept on hand in the present mode of seasoning. This method of seasoning is said to possess many advantages, and the providing the necessary apparatus for carrying it on is strongly recommended.

2. To repair machines worn out in service, and to provide others for new operations.

3. The necessary repairs of the public buildings appears to have been much neglected for many years past, and are much in need of repairs.

4. At present there is but one temporary reservoir in the vicinity of the shops, which would afford but a very inadequate supply of water in case of fire.

ESTIMATES FOR 1843–4.

1.	For rebuilding quarters for commanding officer,	$12,000
2.	For rebuilding "new gate" at middle privilege, and for new wheel-house and flume in connection therewith,	10,000
3.	For purchase of a lot belonging to H. J. Wood, adjoining the public ground at the upper water shop, containing about three acres,	1,300
4.	For two large reservoirs on the hill, and for one at the upper water shops,	3,000
5.	For repairs and improvements,	7,000
6.	For new machinery,	13,000
		$46,300

REMARKS OF THE COMMANDANT.

1. The building erected for the Superintendent's quarters had become so defective that it was condemned as irreparable, and the materials were used for putting up a house for steaming and drying gun-stocks. There are consequently no quarters for the Superintendent.

2. The shop at the middle privilege is so dilapidated as to require these repairs, otherwise the operations now carried on there will have to be discontinued next summer.

3. All wash formerly deposited in rear of the new shop, is in consequence of the erection of a new fence and other improvements at the upper water shop. necessarily turned upon Wood's lot, of which he complains. He will probably prefer a claim for damages unless the Government purchase his lot—the cheapest way of getting rid of a troublesome neighbor. The ground moreover, is much needed for public purposes, and can be probably purchased cheaper now, than at a future period.

4. To secure a full supply of water at these places in case of fire.

5. Liberal appropriations are necessary to the restoration and improvement of the public grounds and buildings, which have from neglect fallen into a diapidated condition and present an untidy appearance.

6. For repairing old machinery and providing new, as decay, wear and tear and improvements may require.

On the foregoing estimates and the explanatory remarks I will for the present on my part observe

FIRST. In regard to the steam drying house, it is a one story building of moderate size, and it could not be possible that the sum of 7,500 dollars was expended upon it, even including the materials—but it will be observed that the materials were furnished from the ruins of the Superintendent's quarters, which had recently been demolished. Moreover the project of a steam drying house was an entire failure, and it has never been used for that purpose to any extent at any time,

and for some years past only for annealing and hardening work. It will be I think very apparent that "economy" in this experiment was not consulted. In regard to the appropriations for machinery, I shall hereafter embody the whole for a series of years together, but it will be noticed that the system was early commenced of paying for repairs of buildings and machinery from special appropriations, instead of charging it to the cost of the musket as formerly. The Commandant also commenced slandering his predecessors by falsely stating that "the public grounds and buildings had from neglect fallen into a dilapidated condition."

SECOND. The reasons given for asking appropriations of large sums for repairs and improvements, in successive years, are to a very great extent fallacious and deceptive. It was not true, that the public buildings had been "neglected," and had become dilapidated." On the contrary they had always been kept well painted and in other respects in good repair. The fact that Col. Talcott, the chief of the Ordinance Beaureau, made frequent and thorough inspections of the public works here, and always expressed his satisfaction with their good condition, is a sufficient refutation of this charge. And I will say here, with the means of information in my possession, that the public property was as well taken care of during the ten years from 1830 to 1840, as it has been during the succeeding ten years; and no sueh sums as $10,000 and $7,000 *could have been* "*economically*" expended for repairs and improvements during the two years now under consideration. (Note C.)

THIRD. The circumstances connected with the requisition for the sum of twelve thousand dollars for "rebuilding the quarters of the Commanding Officer," are of so extraordinary a character, that I shall give that subject a separate consideration, as it will be seen that the $12,000 is but a small beginning of what was expended upon those "*quarters.*"

FOURTH. The shop at the "middle privilege," known by the name of "*Newgate.*" It is a low, one story building of rough stone, about 35 feet long by 18 feet wide, and has been used for forging the small parts of the musket. Requisitions in two years successively of $10,000 and $13,000, to which $4,500 was also required for the same shop for renewing water-wheels and hammers, and raising the dam, making $27,500 for this object alone, and with the assertion that if the shop was not repaired as demanded, "the operations now carried on there will have to be discontinued next summer."

I ask particular attention to the sequel as regards "Newgate." Shortly after these requisitions of $27,000 were made, the roof of the shop was damaged by fire, and a new roof was put on. The flume and water-wheels have been rebuilt, and the dam raised; and this shop has been in constant occupation ever since, and has not been "rebuilt." It is now as good for another half century as it has been for the past half century, and a very moderate outlay will keep it and the machi-

nery in it, in the best state of repair. I have it from a machinist long familiar with the public works at this locality, and with the repairs which have been made upon them, that the sum of two thousand dollars will cover all the expense that has been bestowed on "*Newgate,*" not only within the past *two* years, but for the entire *ten* years past! Where then, it will be pertinently asked, is the balance of the large sum of $27,500 asked for the object designated during the two years 1843 and 1844?

FIFTH. Two large reservoirs to be built on the hill for water, to be used in cases of fires, were asked for in 1843, and the same requisition was repeated in 1844, with the addition of one at the *upper water shops.* The necessity of these reservoirs on the hill, where there were nothing but deep wells to rely upon, is obvious; but it is not so obvious that a necessity existed for one at the *water shop*, where, so far as the "oldest inhabitant" can remember, there has been no lack of water, and the fact that the reservoir could be dispensed with in that locality, was probably discovered *after the appropriation was made*, for this reservoir has never been constructed. Yet it will not escape the observation of the most superficial reader, that the large appropriation of $3,000 was asked for two years successively, to pay the expenses of these reservoirs.

The amount of money demanded for their construction may be safely stated at double what could have been expended upon them *economically*, and if the money was granted both years, it was quadruple what they actually did cost. The "fire district" in Springfield has built within a few years past, seven reservoirs for water for uses at fires. These have been built of the best hard burnt brick, with hydraulic cement, and in the most thorough manner; they are of a capacity of about 200 hogsheads each, and their cost was on the average about $250 each. This shows that *six* of these cost just the same sum as was estimated by the Commandant for *one*. I think it would be difficult to show that the expenditures for reservoirs on the hill was "economically" made.

ESTIMATES FOR 1845.

1 For re-building quarters for Superintendant,	$12,000
2. For enclosing the public ground on the hill lying North of State street, with a high and permanent fence,	18,500
3. For re-building "New Gate," so called, at the middle privilege on Mill river,	13,000
4. For renewing water-wheel and hammers, and raising "New Gate" dam one foot,	4,500
5. For addition to barrel welding shop, and a new water-wheel and flume for the same,	6,000
	$54,000

Amount brought forward,	$54,000
6. For the purchase of a parcel of ground belonging to H. J. Wood, containing about 4 acres, with several other small parcels adjoining the Armory grounds,	5,000
7. For making new and repairing old machinery,	15,000
8. For repairs and improvements,	20,000
	$94,000

REMARKS BY THE COMMANDANT.

1. The building formerly occupied by the Superintendent was examined by competent judges, and condemned as not worth repairing. It was, therefore, pulled down and the materials used in the erection of a steaming and drying house for gun-stocks. The commanding officer is now occupying rented quarters.

2. The large amount of valuable property within those bounds, (nearly $2,500,000,) liable as it now is to any attempts which malicious or evil disposed persons may see fit to make upon it, notwithstanding the vigilance of the watchmen employed to guard it, renders this measure one of expediency, if not of absolute necessity. A substantial and permanent fence, such as is proposed, would place the property enclosed by it nearly out of the reach of danger from ordinary causes.

3 The extremely dilapidated condition of the shop at the middle privilege (" New Gate") renders these repairs necessary for continuing the operations now carried on there.

4. Very great inconvenience is felt at some seasons for want of water at the welding shop. To remedy which, it is proposed to raise the dam at this shop one foot, which may be done without injury to the wheels at the upper privilege.

5. Required to carry on to the best advantage the work done in this shop.

6. All wash formerly deposited in rear of the new shop is, in consequence of the erection of a fence and other improvements at the upper water shops, necessarily turned upon Wood's lot, of which he complains. This and other small parcels of ground are much needed for public purposes, and the amount estimated for is necessary to carry out fully the joint resolution No. 17 1844.

7. To replace old machinery and provide new, as decay, wear and tear and improvements in machinery may require.

8. Liberal appropriations are necessary to the restoration and improvement of the public grounds and buildings, which have from time to time fallen into a dilapidated condition and present an untidy appearance.

I will remark on the foregoing requisitions and the reasons given for them as follows:

FIRST. This is the second twelve thousand dollars asked for, to-

wards "building quarters for the commanding officer." But as these twenty four thousand dollars are less than *one third* the money that these quarters and the land purchased for them, have cost the Government, and there is a mass of interesting facts connected with the demolition of the former quarters, and the creation of the new ones, I will make this the subject of future remark.

SECOND. Enclosing the public ground with a permanent fence—meaning an iron fence—is also a subject that cannot be treated of understandingly without embracing future expenditures for this object. I will, however, remark, that this project of enclosing the public grounds with a fence that will cost the Government from $100,000 to $200,000 will be seen, when examined, to be a magnificent specimen of ostentatious profusion, and the pretences that are set up to procure the granting of the money—that it affords any considerable safeguard to the public property, is illusory. I shall not forget to place this item of expenditure in its true light hereafter.

THIRD. Here is a fresh demand for $13,000 for rebuilding "*Newgate;*" and

FOURTH. $4500 more for water-wheels and for raising the dam, amounting, with the requisitions in the two previous years, to $27,000.

FIFTH. The roof of the welding shop has been renewed, and a new wheel and flume rebuilt. The whole cost, I am authorized to say, did not exceed $1,500. Yet the same object is brought forward this year, and $6,000 demanded to meet the expense.

SIXTH. The sum of $5,000 is required this year to purchase the ground of H. J. Wood, "the troublesome neighbor" who was so unfortunate as to own property coveted by the "commandant," and who was driven to the necessity of disposing of it, according to the declaration of that gentleman, "in consequence of improvements at the upper water shop, the wash was turned upon him." Mr. Wood made a "*swap*" with the commandant of this property, for other real estate, and the knowing ones say that "Uncle Sam" came off second best in the bargain; yet there was less than $400 in *cash* paid to Mr Wood in this transaction, out of the $5,000 appropriated.

SEVENTH. I shall postpone for the present any comments on the amounts required for machinery, but it will not be neglected.

EIGHTH. Here we have the enormous sum of $20,000 in one year demanded for repairs and improvements, and the old charge is reiterated, that the "public grounds and buildings had fallen into a dilapidated state." If that fact existed in the year 1845, the commandant who had been in charge of the property for four years, and who had not been particularly backward in demanding appropriations of money, ought to have hesitated to make such an exhibit of their condition.

I now take the year 1846.

ESTIMATES.

1. For the erection in part of a new arsenal,	$50,000
2. For inclosing with an iron fence the public ground on the hill north of State street and west of Franklin square,	15,000
3. For rebuilding shop at the middle privilege and for a new water-wheel, flume, &c.,	10,000
4. For addition to welding shop, with a new water-wheel, flume, &c.,	4,500
5. For erecting a storehouse for musket stocks, box boards and other lumber,	12,000
6. For repairs and improvements,	20,000
7. For making new and repairing old machinery,	10,000
8. For the purchase of a lot adjoining the Armory grounds on the hill, containing one acre,	3,500
Total,	$125,000

REMARKS BY THE COMMANDANT.

1. There is not at this Armory the means of storing another musket. An additional arsenal for that purpose is much needed, and should be commenced immediately.

2. The large amount of property within these bounds—about 2½ millions worth—requires a permanent and safe enclosure. It is now surrounded by a wooden fence going to decay, and the property is liable to destruction by an incendiary, notwithstanding the vigilance of the watchmen employed to guard it. The present enclosure must soon be replaced, and one of a substantial and permanent kind is best in every respect. This is the more necessary, as no military guard is ever employed at the Armory.

3. The present shop, built some thirty or forty years ago, is in a dilapidated condition, and the flume requires constant repairs.

4. At least two additional welding hammers are needed, and the shop must be enlarged to receive them. The flume and water-wheel are so much decayed as to require renewing.

5. The present lumber sheds are inconveniently situated, and so dilapidated, that it would not be expedient to make them good by repairs. It is proposed to erect a permanent store house, of two stories, to contain gun-stocks, box boards, and other lumber and condemned work.

6. Liberal expenditures are required for the restoration and improvement of the public buildings and grounds which have from neglect fallen into a dilapidated condition and present an untidy appearance.

7. To repair old machinery as wear and tear and improvements may require.

8. This lot known as Stebbins's lot adjoins the west end of the Armory grounds. The wooden building on it, from its proximity, endangers valuable public buildings and stores. It should be removed, and the source of such danger avoided by the possession of the lot by the Government.

It may be pertinently remarked as to the demands for money this year, that the Commandant will not be charged with excessive modesty. $150,000 was granted, and I suppose was all that was asked for, to be applied to the manufacture, while the large sum of $125,000 was required for objects, several of which had been provided for in former appropriations, and they all demand a rigid examination.

First. In regard to the requisition of $50,000 towards building a new Arsenal, I shall hereafter make such remarks as I think will raise doubts as to the "economy" of erecting such a structure, although I am aware that on account of the magnificent view from its cupola, it enjoys much popular commendation. But as another sum of $20,000 was subsequently granted to *finish* this building, I shall reserve what I have to say for a future occasion.

Second. This requisition is the first in which an "*iron*" fence is named; the previous year an appropriation was asked for "a high and permanent fence," and $18,500 was granted. That sum and the $15,000 for this year, are but the entering wedges for the expenditure of an indefinite sum of money for the iron fence. (Note D.)

Third. The rebuilding of "*Newgate* and its appendages," I had supposed had been provided for by the large sum of $33,500 which had been demanded for these purposes in 1844 and 1845; but here is a fresh demand for $10,000 more, with the addition of $4,500 for addition to welding shop, making $37,500 for the former, and $10,500 for the latter—in all, $48,000 in the short space of three years at that locality; and yet "*Newgate*," except a new roof, stands as it was, and no addition has been made to the barrel-welding shop, except the roof was renewed and raised, and some new wheels and other fixtures, amounting, on competent authority, to a cost not exceeding $6,000!!

Fifth. The object for this appropriation is worthy of attention. The present "lumber sheds" are said to be "inconveniently situated and dilapidated." These "sheds," so called, mean the two red store houses of wood, formerly used as arsenals or store-houses for the manufactured muskets and other valuable property.

Many years ago, for the purposes of security, two new store-houses of brick were erected, to take place of these wooden structures, and some years afterward, another longer and more thoroughly built Arsenal was erected.

These wooden store houses were each 100 feet long, 25 feet wide, and two stories high. The frames were constructed of solid ranging timber about 10 in. by 7 in.—that is to say, the sides and flooring had no joist and scantling; but the entire frame was built of ranging timber to sustain the immense weight which was packed into them. Be-

sides this, the flooring timbers are sustained by heavy timber columns. The outside walls were covered with inch yellow pine boards, and rived clapboards, and painted red, and the roof with shingles.

After the erection of the new brick arsenals, say 25 to 30 years ago, these wooden store houses—"sheds"—were removed to a convenient location on East square, where they were used for the purpose of storing "gun stocks and box boards and other lumber," and they were exceedingly well suited for that purpose; and I take it upon me to say, that after the expenditure of $24,000 for a new brick building 400 feet long by 55 feet wide, the purposes for which this new brick building is used are not any better subserved than when the "*sheds*" were used. These large and substantial buildings were afterwards sold at (mock?) auction for less than $100 each, and they are now used by the American Machine Co. for workshops, storage of patterns, &c. and the identical covering, without renewal, is now in tolerably fair condition, and the timbers are quite sound.

It would be ridiculous to connect the idea of "*economy*" with this scheme. The fact in regard to this 400 foot building should not be omitted, that more than half of it has always lain utterly unoccupied and useless, and in all probability always will remain useless, for the purposes put forth for its construction. It is ascertained, by actual calculation, that one-fourth of the space in this building would contain a supply of rough gun-stocks for 100 years at one and the same time, taking the quantity used in the last 20 years as a criterion.

SIXTH. "Liberal expenditures" are again "required" for the restoration and improvement of the public buildings and grounds, and it is reiterated that they have, from neglect, fallen into a dilapidated condition. It will be remembered that this is the year 1846—the fifth year of the administration of this military "Commandant." He had previously asked for sums as follows for the same purpose:

In 1843,	$10,000
" 1844,	7,000
" 1845,	20,000
	$37,000

Making $37,000 in three years, and yet he tells the Government that, after all his efforts and with money given him without stint, he finds still that "the public buildings and grounds are dilapidated and present an untidy appearance," and so asks the additional moderate sum of *twenty thousand dollars*, making $57,000 in all to make things "tidy." If this was the last of these specimens of "economy" I would be done with it. But more hereafter.

SEVENTH. The requisitions for repairing old machinery I shall post up hereafter, but it will be borne in mind that while the establishment was under civil charge this item of expenditure was taken from the appropriations for the musket, and *not* provided for by special grants.

EIGHTH. The history of the lot designated as the "Stebbins" and the *real* motive for its purchase is briefly this. Mr. Sam'l. H. Stebbins, then a workman in the Armory, and for several years a member of our State Legislature, purchased a lot westwardly of the Armory grounds, and built a very respectable house upon it, about the year 1828. Prospect street, a part of which was granted for a moderate compensation, was taken from his lot, and this street lay between his buildings and the Government land; but the large amount of property which it was alleged was so much exposed to danger by this house, is situated fifty rods distant at least, and the "Commandant" must have relied entirely on the credulity of his superiors when he made the pretext for this grant. There is a long row of houses and shops of brick and wood, including one wooden church, directly the opposite side of the street, and within eight or ten rods of this valuable property, and if any reason existed on the score of safety, he ought to have *first* taken means to get rid of those buildings.

But it is well known here that the reasons given may, with great propriety, be termed "*humbug*," if that expression is ever allowable. The real motive was, to get rid of an obstruction to a fine view of the surrounding country from the "*new quarters*," otherwise termed the "*palace*," which was at this time (1845) in process of construction. *That* is the whole story as to the *motive*. Now let us examine the *means*. Mr. Stebbins, the former owner, had deceased some years before, and the principal interest in the property rested in the hands of Mrs. Stebbins and her two minor children. She rented the house for some years to Rev. Mr. Russell, but was desirous of selling it. She was residing in the city of New York, and wrote to a friend here, soliciting him to find a purchaser. I have the original letter to that friend before me, in which she says the property cost $2500, and it ought to bring at least $2000, giving the plain inference that she would sell it for that sum if she could not do better. It turned out that she could do a great deal better, for learning that Mrs. S. was arranging to sell the property, the Commandant became alarmed lest it should pass into other hands, and sent first the Paymaster, who endeavored to precipitate a purchase by alledging that a part of the house stood on the U. States ground, but that scheme not succeeding, he employed another person to operate. In the meantime, the sagacity of the lady discovered that the property was *particularly wanted*, and she took the usual course in such cases, and put up the price according to the demand; and the long and short of it was she received $3000 for it. I will leave it to others to adjust the discrepancies between the price paid, which was $3000, the consideration mentioned in the deed, which was $2590, and the sum demanded for it in the estimate, which was $3500. The fact also stands prominent, that the property was purchased of Mrs. Stebbins in July, 1845—but the deed I believe at that time not taken in the name of the U. S.—and the appropriation to pay for it was not *asked for* until 1846; and what is of less conse-

quence, but worth noting, the lot contained less than half an acre, instead of an acre, as alleged by the "Commandant."

ESTIMATESS FOR 1847.

1.	For forebays, flumes, raceways, harness for tilt hammers, shafting, and other fixtures, at the Middle Water Shop,	5,000
2.	For a new bridge across Mill River, at the Upper Water Shop,	3,500
3.	For repairs and improvments.	5,000
4.	For making new, and repairing old machinery.	5,000
		$18,500

REMARKS BY THE COMMANDANT.

1. The harnesses or frames for tilt hammers at this shop are in a dilapidated condition, and new forebays are necessary.

2. This bridge is necessary to carry into full effect the arrangements entered into by the United States and the town authorities of Springfield, pursuant to a joint resolution of Congress of 17th June, 1844.

3. The middle and east arsenals and rolling mill require re-slating, and several buildings want painting. This amount will only effect the most pressing repairs.

4. To replace old machinery and provide new, or replace the old, as wear and tear, and improvements may require.

On the foregoing I have to remark:

First. Without considering it of great importance, I am at a loss to determine what a "*forebay*" is. I am unable to find the word in Webster's unabridged dictionary, and I have also consulted others of less note; but it is I suppose, something connected with the machinery at the middle water-shop; and we have a fresh demand for money to be expended in that locality; but as there is more coming for like purposes, I have only to remark that when I am through, I will post up the account and strike a balance, taking care to give full credit for the improvments actually made. It will be borne in mind, that within four years, *fifty-three thousand dollars* have been required of the Government to be expended on this locality, including "*Newgate,*" which is a part of the "*middle water-shops.*"

Second. This bridge *was* necessary to carry into effect the arrangements with the town authorities of Springfield, and the said authorities fulfilled on their part in good faith; but although the large sum of $3,500—fifty per cent. at least more than was necessary for the purpose—was asked and *granted*, not a single blow has been struck, or a movement made for building this bridge.

Third. The pretence that the middle and east arsenals and rolling mill required re-slating, was false altogether, and this is made sure by the fact, that the money for the purpose was *granted*, and neither of those roofs have been "re-slated," but are covered with the same slate that was put upon them when they were built; and moreover practical men give it as their opinion, that the roofs are in as good order and the slate apparently as good, as any "re-slating" would make them; and an interval of five years has passed since the representation was made to the Government that the roofs required "reslating."

Fourth. The appropriations for machinery have been enormous, as will be seen at the close of the account.

ESTIMATES FOR THE YEAR 1848.

1.	For completing the new store-house according to the approved plan,	$12,000
2.	For rebuilding and raising the stone dam at the Upper Water shops,	10,000
3.	For an addition to the north shop on the hill,	12,000
4.	For making new and repairing old machinery,	22,000
5.	For General repairs and improvements,	10,000
6.	For rebuilding, polishing and barrel-boring shops,	15,000
		$81,000
Add to this—For purchase of land adjacent to the new arsenal and public buildings,		10,000
For purchase of land to be flowed by raising dam at Upper Water shops,		5,000
		$96,000

REMARKS BY THE COMMANDANT.

1. A large portion of the materials required for this building have been procured, and its early completion is very desirable, for the convenient storage of musket stocks, &c.

2. This measure has been in contemplation many years, and is now revived in consequence of the very apparent diminution of the stream on which this shop is situated. It is believed that the increased water-power which this improvement would give to all the works, and especially to the middle and lower privileges, would exceed the cost of making it, and when completed, those last would no longer be required, and might be sold.

3. The lower water-shop being at an inconvenient distance from the principal shops of the Armory, it is proposed to remove the operations hitherto carried on in the milling and filing shops to the hill, where they can be conducted to much greater advantage. To accom-

modate the machines and filers on the hill, more room will be required than is afforded by the present shop.

4. Many of the machines now in use are nearly worn out, and must be replaced by those of more modern construction.

5. This item includes repairs of dwelling houses, shops, arsenals, and store-houses, building fences, culverts, sidewalks, roads, and grading and improvements of grounds, &c. &c.

6. The condition of the foundation and walls of these shops, has long been such as to render them very unsafe. Their early abandonment will probably be necessary, and they are entirely too small for the purposes for which they are required.

The reasons put forth for requiring the large sum of ninety-six thousand dollars for special purposes, the year under consideration, requires attention.

First. Twelve thousand dollars is demanded for the purpose of "completing the new store-house."

I have previously stated that a store-house 400 feet long by 55 feet wide, two stories high, had been erected at a cost of $20,000, but I find that twenty-four thousand dollars has been used up in the erection of that store-house, and it is not, nor has it been occupied to one half its capacity, nor will it ever be, for the purposes designed.

It will not be forgotten that the two wooden buildings, each 100 feet long (formerly the old arsenals) were sold for a less sum than they were worth for fuel, and they were quite as suitable for the storage of lumber, as this expensive store-house.

Second. I will not discuss at this time, the question of the policy of raising this dam; but I will say of my own knowledge, that there is no necessity to "rebuild" the dam, the present one being built of massive masonry, founded on the rock bed of the stream, and of sufficient thickness to allow the raising upon it with safety, of double the additional height contemplated. It is worthy of notice, however, that although it is near four years since the money for this improvement was asked for *and granted*, not a blow has been struck, nor a dollar laid out upon it.

Third. This project like the last has remained entirely untouched, although the money was appropriated for it more than three years ago. I am not certain, however, that the project of removing the work from some of the water shops to the hill and disposing of those shops to individuals or corporations would not be a wise one.

Fourth. I waive at present any comments in regard to this large sum granted for machinery; I shall have large amounts to add to this at the proper time.

Fifth. The various purposes for which the money under this head is required, precludes at present any other remarks than to promise to embody the whole together at the close of this investigation, when the responsible officer will be likely to have justice done him.

Sixth. I take it upon me to say, that the reasons alleged for

requiring an appropriation for rebuilding these shops, are unfounded and deceptive. The foundations rest on the solid rock, the same as the dam, and the walls themselves are in the main as good as they have been for twenty years past, and it is news to those who ought to know best about them, that they are "unsafe." It will be remembered that it is now more than three years since this appropriation was obtained, and the shops stand as firm as ever, and are still used for "barrel boring and polishing," and not a dollar has been expended nor a *beginning* made towards rebuilding these shops.

In absence of any reasons by the Commandant for the necessity of paying ten thousand dollars "for the purchase of land adjacent to the new arsenal and public building," I will give the reasons. This is a portion of the land previously mentioned as having been purchased to secure an unabstructed view of the surrounding country from the "palace," and for no other reasons.

The five thousand dollars for the purchase of land in anticipation of its being flowed by raising the dam at the upper water shop, I do not question was paid for the purpose stated, but as the dam has not been raised, nor is there any immediate prospect of its accomplishment, there seems to be a great lack of "economy" in making this outlay so long before the plans were matured for carrying the project into execution.

I will recapitulate the appropriations and expenditures for this year, distinguishing the objects accomplished, from those which have not been commenced.

The new store-house (completed)	$12,000	
Repairing and making machinery	22,000	
General repairs and improvements	10,000	
Purchase of land	15,000	
		$59,000
Rebuilding the dam (not begun)	$10,000	
Addition to the shop on the hill (do.)	12,000	
Rebuilding barrel-boring and polishing shops (do)	15,000	
		$37,000
		$96,000

Showing thirty-seven thousand dollars of the appropriations for the year which is under consideration, applied to purposes different from the pretext for obtaining it.

ESTIMATES FOR 1849.

1. For finishing the new Arsenal, putting up gun racks, painting Arsenal, storehouse and other buildings,	$20,000
2. For additions to south shop on the hill and connecting it and the north shop with a center building, and for addition thereto, and repairs of the two buildings, north and south of the new Arsenal,	21,000
3. For enlarging the reservoir north of the machine shop,	1,500
4. General repairs and improvements,	5,000
5. For storehouse for iron, steel, files, &c.,	10,000
6. For making new and repairing old (so called) machinery,	10,000
7. For removing the rolling mill and re-building it at the upper water shops,	15,000
	$82,500

REMARKS BY THE COMMANDANT.

1. There being no suitable vacant building for storing finished arms, it is important that arrangements for their reception in the new arsenal should be completed as soon as possible. There are now some 40 or 50,000 percussion muskets, which are without a proper place for storage.

2. Most of the operations which are now performed at the shops on Mill River, may be transferred to those on the hill, with advantage to the establishment and economy in the work done. To accommodate the machines and workmen on the hill, additions to the present shops will be required.

3. A reservoir has already been formed by means of a dam across the ravine; by raising this dam about 10 feet, it will cause the water to flow into the well under the engine room, and afford a permanent and abundant supply for the boiler and small reservoirs and for other purposes.

4. This includes the repair of dwelling houses, shops, Arsenals, storehouses, fences, culverts, sidewalks, and gutters, laying water and gaspipes, and grading and general improvements of grounds.

5. The present machine shop has been used for storing iron, steel, files, and articles of like character, for which there are daily uses. A suitable building for this purpose is much needed.

6. Considerable progress has already been made in substituting greatly improved machines heretofore in use; much advantage results from the substitution, and it is proposed to continue it.

7. When the pond at the Upper Water Shops shall have been raised, as proposed, it will afford abundant power for Armory purposes, and the work now done at the several shops on Mill river can be concentrated at that point, and much more conveniently and economically executed than now, when the shops are scattered. In this case the

middle and lower shops may be sold, or otherwise disposed of as may be thought advantageous.

In regard to the estimates for this year I have to remark:

First. The new Arsenal building is 200 feet long by 70 feet wide, and three stories high, and will contain three hundred thousand muskets; the old Arsenals accommodate two hundred thousand, making half a million of muskets, which it is not at all probable, will, for obvious reasons, be permitted to be stored at any one locality—moreover the hazard of keeping property amounting to over three millions of dollars under one roof is so great, that common prudence would seem to forbid it. This is a matter, however, that will be left for future Congresses to direct, for if there should not be a musket carried away it will take, at the average rate of production for the past twenty years, over *twenty-four years* to fill this new Arsenal.

Second. Not a *beginning* has been made towards the construction of these buildings, although the appropriations for the purpose was made three years ago, except the new painting of "the two buildings north and south of the new Arsenal," which are nothing more or less than the Paymaster's house on the south, and the Master Armorer's house on the north.

Third. This reservoir which had already been constructed, has never answered any useful purpose, nor can it be conceived that it ever will. Efforts have been made by the Commandant to breed trout in it, but the *important* project has proved an abortion. There have been very considerable sums expended on this puerile toy, but *this last* fifteen hundred dollars, *if* expended, has been applied to some other object.

Fourth. The objects mentioned under this item are so multifarious, that it is useless to follow them. It may with propriety be remarked, however, that several of them, if the eye of the Government was directly upon them, would never be permitted.

Fifth. The amount of iron, steel, files, &c. requiring storage, have not been greater during the last ten years, than it was during the twenty years next preceding, and if more room really is necessary for those purposes, there is an abundance of spare room in the storehouse built for housing gun stocks, &c., a large portion of which has always remained unoccupied.

Sixth. The call for large amounts for repairs of machinery and the purchase of new, will be found at the close to amount to a very great sum, and the folly of the reasons given to a very great extent, will be fully shown.

Seventh. It is possible that the expectations of the Commandant will be realized if he raises the upper water shop dam as proposed, but strong doubts of it have been expressed by practical men. It is three years since the appropriation for that work was made, but as yet nothing has been done.

ESTIMATES FOR 1850.

1. For building a forging shop on the hill,	$15,000
2. For making new and repairing old machinery,	15,000
3. For gun racks,	10,000
4. For general repairs and improvements,	15,000
5. For the purchase of a spring of water issuing from the head of the ravine north of the forging shop on the hill,	1,000
Add to this	
For the purchase of a lot of ground at Springfield, Massachusetts, adjoining the Armory ground,	8,500
	$64,500

REMARKS BY THE COMMANDANT.

1. The present forging shop is too contracted for this branch of the work, and additional shop room is necessary.

2. There is but a small sum available for these objects, and the full amount of these estimates is thought requisite. Expenditures for improving machinery are more than returned by the reduction thereby effected in the manufacturing.

3. Required for the proper storage of the muskets as they are finished. Before the expiration of the fiscal year, the racks now put up will be filled, and it is proposed to provide an additional number sufficient to hold 100,000 muskets.

4. This item includes the repairing of dwelling houses, shops, storehouses, fences, culverts, sidewalks, roads and drains, laying water pipes and grading and improvement of grounds generally. It is partly an estimate for re-appropriation of rents, &c., turned into the treasury by act of March 4, 1849, (pamphlet laws, page 105) instead of being credited to the appropriations for repairs, &c., at this Armory.

5. This spring, although on land now owned by the Government, belongs to the Western Railroad Corporation, who being about to obtain a supply of water from another source, will dispose of their right to it. It is highly important to secure it for the Armory, which may be done at the sum estimated.

On the estimates for this year I will remark:

FIRST. The forging shop for which fifteen thousand dollars is wanted is still untouched, and although more than two years have elapsed, we hear no more of its necessity: yet the money was granted for it.

SECOND. Further remarks on the expenditures for machinery will be deferred until the final footing up of the account.

THIRD. It is inconceivable how ten thousand dollars can be expended on gun racks in the new Arsenal, but this sum is not more than half that has been granted for that purpose, and it makes up near $80,000 expended on that building.

FOURTH. It would be very easy to show that the *repeated* application for money for the objects enumerated, is to a great extent wasteful and illadvised.

FIFTH. This is so insignificant an item—*only* $1000—that, although the price demanded and paid for this spring has no parallel for such a piece of property, I let it pass. The item for the purchase of the lot of ground has been heretofore alluded to, and is the same that was purchased of R. Shurtleff as a mere matter of fancy, and it is of no use whatever to the Government.

ESTIMATES FOR 1851.

1.	For a barrel welding shop,	$15,000
2.	For a steam engine and boilers,	10,000
3.	For a carpenter's shop,	7,000
4.	For making new and repairing old machinery,	15,000
		$47,000

REMARKS BY THE COMMANDANT.

1. Rolled barrels are said to be stronger and more free from defects than those welded under the hammer: and a great saving of cost it is thought may be effected by adopting the method of welding by rollers.

2. The consolidation of the works on the Armory hill, and the abandonment of most of the old shops on mill river, are very desirable, and will conduce essentially to the convenience and economy of the manufacturing operations. The small engine now in use is scarcely sufficient for present purposes, and when the operations are transferred from the inconvenient position at the water shops, an additional engine of greater power will be indispensably necessary.

3. The building now in use as a Carpenter's shop was built for a dwelling house, is inconveniently situated, and otherwise unsuited for such use. It was condemned sometime ago on survey by the inspector of Armories and Arsenals.

4. To preserve in good order the present machinery and keep up with the improvements introduced since it was constructed. Expenditures in machinery are more than returned by the reduction effected thereby in the cost of manufacturing.

FIRST. The reasons put forth for requiring a new barrel welding shop have turned out to be visionary. The experiment of welding barrels by *rolling* them together, has entirely failed, but not until after a waste of several thousand dollars on the experiment. Several months time was expended in getting up machinery for this experiment, which was all of no practical value, for the project was found to be impracticable, and if the principles of the operation had been investigated by an experienced machinist, it would have never been attempted, and the money which has been wasted upon it would have been saved.

The experiment of drawing the "*scalps*" for the barrels by rolling, resulted in a still more serious loss, that was persisted in for several years, involving a loss, according to an estimate of individuals favorably situated for knowing, of more than thirty thousand dollars.

SECOND. It is not designed to discuss the question of the policy and economy of abandoning the water shops and "consolidating" the operations on the Armory hill, but if such a plan is likely to be adopted, the large sums that have quite lately been expended on the water shops and their appendages, with particular reference to pursuing the present plan of operations, ought not to have been laid out. It will be seen that the very next year, money is required to build new wheels, &c., at the upper water shops, and the work is now actually going on, which certainly indicates a fluctuating and unsettled policy as to the future. In regard to the reasons given for a new steam engine on the ground that "the engine now in use being scarcely sufficient for present purposes." It will not be forgotten that this same engine performs the labor of raising water 60 or 70 feet high, and forcing it through iron pipes 60 or 70 rods into the attick of the "palace," whence it is distributed over the house and conducted to the pleasure grounds and expended in *water jets*—an arrangement of *doubtful* "*economy*," to say the least. There is good ground to believe that the present engine is amply sufficient for all the *legitimate* purposes for which it is required.

THIRD. The demand for seven thousand dollars for a carpenter's shop under the circumstances, is most preposterous. Previous to the military supervision, a building was made use of for a carpenter's shop, of what was then thought suitable dimensions and conveniently situated. It was on "East square," sufficiently central for convenience, and away from exposure to the public property. Soon after Major Ripley assumed his authority, a block of wooden two story dwelling houses was taken for the purpose, and the inside completely cleared out, making confessedly a commodious carpenter's shop, but at an unnecessary sacrifice of property. The building is about 80 feet long by 30 feet wide, and furnished very good accommodations for four respectable families, and such a building as that was, would now readily command a rent of $300 pr year:—the head carpenter, Mr. Elisha Curtis, occupied one of the tenements for many years. It is now proposed to demolish this building—which for all practical purposes, is as good as it was when first occupied—and expend *seven thousand dollars* for a new carpenter's shop to accommodate six to eight workmen on the average, at the fartherest.

FOURTH. The oft repeated expressions are reiterated that "expenditures in machinery are more than returned by the reduction effected in the cost of manufacturing." It would seem that there ought, by this time, to be some evidence of those statements, but as yet the cost of the musket has rather increased than diminished, from the cost under the former management, notwithstanding the large expenditures for

machinery. It is remarkable that this year, for the first under the military rule, no money is asked for "repairs and improvements," and it was to be hoped that the public buildings which it has repeatedly been alleged were in a "neglected and dilapidated state," had been put in order; but it will be seen that the next year the goodly sum of $12,500 is required for that purpose. I now come to the last requisition for money which has yet been made for the Springfield Armory, so far as the facts have come under my observation.

ESTIMATES FOR 1852.

1.	For a turbine wheel for the Upper Water shop, with the necessary shafting and fixtures for driving machinery,	$ 5,000
2.	For stables for the use of the Armory,	3,500
3.	For enclosing Franklin square, so called,	1,500
4.	For repairs and improvements,	12,500
5.	For making new and repairing old machinery,	10,000
		$32,500

REMARKS BY THE COMMANDANT.

1. This wheel is a substitute for, and will answer the purpose of four large wooden breast wheels. These now require renewing, being worn out by time and use, the cost of which would exceed this item of estimate.

2. The old frame stables long since erected are inconveniently situated, and must be removed from the present site to avoid the risk to other valuable buildings in the vicinity. It is proposed to erect a permanent building for the purpose on a different site.

3. The temporary inclosure of a part of the public lands is decayed and requires renewing. It is proposed to do this by a picket fence.

4. This item includes repairs of dwelling houses, fences, culverts, sidewalks, roads, and drains, laying water pipes, and grading and improvement of the grounds generally.

5. To preserve in good order the present machinery and keep up with improvements. Expenditures for machinery are more than returned by the reduction thereby effected in the cost of manufacturing.

Regarding the estimates for the present year, I will observe—

FIRST. The plan of building a Turbine wheel has been abandoned, although the amount asked for—$5000—was granted; and the old breast wheels are being rebuilt, at a cost as it is understood from good authority, of less than one third of that amount. One of the wheels was rebuilt two years ago, and another has been partially renewed, and a new wheel is now building to take the place of the other two. The call for large appropriations to be expended on the water shops, almost at the same time that it is proposed to abandon them altogether, and transfer the operations to the Armory hill, shows a vacillating and unsettled policy.

SECOND. The present stables were very much enlarged and fitted up

in the most commodious manner *on the present site* by the military Commandant, and they accommodate six or eight horses very comfortably, while a single pair did the necessary drudgery required of horses under the former Officers of the Armory. The Commandant alledges that they are inconveniently situated, and intimates that they expose other property by fire. All these facts were as easy to be seen ten years ago, when the stables were fitted up, as now; and it is fair to assume that the scheme of demolishing these stables and buildings anew, is a mere freak of fancy, and is by no means warranted by necessity or "*economy*."

THIRD. The money asked for inclosing Franklin square with a "picket fence" would seem to be unnecessary, as that ground is now inclosed with a "picket fence," apparently in good order, and with renewing the posts occasionally, it may be kept in good condition twenty years at least.

FOURTH. The old stereotyped reasons are again given to obtain money for the "repairs of dwelling houses shops, storehouses, fences, culverts, sidewalks, roads and drains, laying of waterpipes and grading of grounds." The Government having sold most of their dwelling houses, have very few to keep in repair, most of them are new brick houses, and need but slight repairs, and but a *very* small sum could possibly be required to keep them in order; the other matters mentioned are *mere covers*, to get a large amount to expend uselessly in building terraces on the north side of the Armory grounds, entirely away from view, and of no practical advantage to the Armory. It is on this work however, that the great bulk of the money granted for "repairs and improvements" has been expended. I venture to say, that if an officer of the Government *presumed* to expend money for such an object in the City of Washington, he would be furnished with other business at a short notice.

I now proceed to post up the several items of expenditure during the ten years of the present administration of the Armory, placing each as near as practicable under its separate head.

Year	For Machinery	For Repairs and Improvements.
1843	$6000	$10,000
1844	13,000	7,000
1845	15,000	20,000
1846	10,000	20,000
1847	5,000	5,000
1848	22,000	10,000
1849	10,000	5,000
1850	15,000	15,000
1851	15,000	
"	10,000 for Steam Engine,	
1852	10,000	12,500
	$131,000 in ten years,	$104,500 in 9 years

	For the new Arsenal,		For quarters for the Commandant,	
46	$50,000		1844	$12,000
49	20,000	including gun racks,	1845	12,000
50	10,000	for gun racks,		
	$80,000			$24,000

	For the iron fence,		For storehouse for lumber,	
45	$18,500		1846	$12,000
46	12,000		1848	12,000
		$33,500		$24,000

For rebuilding "New Gate" and enlarging the adjoining shop,

44	$10,000
45	23,500
46	14,500
47	5,000
	$53,000

This sum has been asked for for the purposes stated, and a large por-
n of it granted, while it is susceptible of proof, that not as much as
: *thousand dollars* could have been expended on that locality.

I now bring forward and embody the several sums asked, for the
jects enumerated in five years from 1844 to 1852 inclusive, not one
which has been completed or even begun, and not a dollar expend-
upon them unless it be for a small amount for materials for the
idge across mill river at the upper water shops, and for raising the dam.
d an amount not exceeding $6,000 expended on repairs and im-
ovements at the middle water shops including "Newgate"

44	For two reservoirs the (same amount having been granted in 1843,)	$3,000
	" Rebuilding "New Gate" &c.,	10,000
	" Purchase of land of H. J. Wood, ($1,300 appropriated, $400 paid,)	900
45	" Rebuilding New Gate,	13,000
	" Addition to barrel welding shop,	6,000
	" Purchase of H. J. Woods' property, (paid for in other property,)	5,000
46	" Rebuilding shop at middle privilege, &c.,	10,000
	" Addition to barrel welding shop,	4,500
47	" Forbays, flumes, &c., at the middle shop,	5,000
	" New bridge across mill river, at Upper water shop,	3,500
	" Re-slating center and east Arsenals, and rolling mill,	3,000
48	" Rebuilding and raising stone dam, at Upper water shop,	10,000
	" Addition to north shop on the hill,	12,000
	" Rebuilding polishing and barrel welding shop,	15,000
49	" Addition to south shop on the hill &c.,	20,000
	" Enlarging reservoir north of machine shop,	1,500
	" Store house for iron, steel &c.,	10,000
	" Removing rolling mill and rebuilding it at the upper water shop,	15,000
50	" Rebuilding a forging shop on the hill,	15,000
51	" Barrel welding shop,	15,000
	" Steam Engine and boilers,	10,000
	" Carpenter's shop,	7,000
52	" Building turbine wheel at upper water shop,	5,000
	" Stables for the use of the Armory,	3,500
		$202,900

These sums were not only demanded, but a large portion actually granted, as will be seen by comparing the sums asked in the several years, with the amounts allowed by the annual appropriations, as follows:

Years.	Amount required.		Amount granted.	
1844	"	$46,000	"	$25,000
1845	"	94,000	"	29,500
1846	"	125,000	"	125,000
1847	"	18,500	"	18,500
1848	"	96,000	"	96,000
1849	"	82,500	"	91,500
1850	"	64,500	"	65,000
1851	"	57,000	"	47,000
1852	"	32,500	" (probably)	32,500
		$606,000		$530,000

I have no official data to state the exact amount appropriated in the year 1852 but as the full amount required was granted for several of the preceeding years, I have set down an equal sum to that required.

If this is correct, the amount required in those nine years for special objects, (some of which were represented to be of the most pressing necessity,) is $606,000—and $530,000 was granted: Deduct the difference between these sums from the $202,900 leaving the large sum of 126,900 actually appropriated for works which have not only, not been commenced, but there is no visible preparation for a beginning upon any one of them !!!

This is not all, the estimates exhibit on the face of them the most reckless want of system in making detailed calculations, the different sums being evidently "*lumped*" off, most generally by even thousands of dollars, and in most of them the sums required are very much larger—some of them more than double the necessary cost of constructing the works contemplated, and the same remark will apply with great propriety to the sums granted for works which have been executed, and for property purchased. It is not assuming too much to say that of the aum of $530,000 appropriated during the nine years under consideration, more than one half has been squandered for objects utterly useless for the purposes of a manufactory of arms, and much of the balance has been expended with a slight regard for "*economy*."

If a thorough investigation should be instituted, (*not by a military Court of inquiry,*)* and rigidly carried through, and it will prove the

* The military Court of inquiry which was held in the months of February and March 1846 having been alluded to, it is proper that some notice should be taken of the doings of that tribunal.

In the month of January 1846 a memorial was addressed to Congress by a large number of respectable citizens of Springfield complaining of specified delinquencies in duty on the part of the Commandant which put forth thirteen distinct charges.

most *economical* measure that the Government has adopted in regard to the Armories in many years.

The pretensions set up by the military Commandant of having effected an improvement in the *quality* of the arms fabricated, over those produced under his predecessors, are as unfounded in fact, as his claims of having reduced the cost. In point of fact, the arms now manufactured are inferior in quality to those made twelve to fifteeen years ago. It is notorious that the inspection of the different parts, is much less rigid than it was then, and defects in the work which would be then deemed good reason for rejection, are now passed over. This may be accounted for from the fact that nearly all the old and experienced workmen have been discharged or have voluntarily left the Armory, and their places are to a considerable extent filled with workmen of no previous practical knowledge of the construction of a musket or any of its parts, and the instances are not rare, that the newly employed hands, have not been previously used to any mechanical operation. It has been ascertained that out of two hundred and sixty men on the list of workmen ten years ago, there are less than forty remaining.

I will now go into the subject of expenditures for "Superintendent's quarters," for which in the two successive years of 1844 and 1845, an aggregate sum of twenty-four thousand dollars had been granted. I will first give, however, a history of what have been termed the "old" Superintendent's quarters, including the destruction of that property in the months of May and June, 1843.

It was the expectation of the memorialists and the public generally, that if any action was had in the matter, it would be investigated by a Committee of Congress, or by Civilians in some form. The result was however, that the subject was referred to the Secretary of War, and a military Court of inquiry was ordered. The Court of which General Wool was President convened at Springfield about the middle of February, and on the Memorialists—themselves citizens and no more interested in the result than the rest of the community—was thrown the labor expense and responsibility of accusers, and the *Government* it was very apparent appeared for the defence.

The charges were of a serious character and the evidence offered was abundantly strong to have convicted the accused before an impartial tribunal: but it was soon seen, that the remarks which were current among the citizens that, no conviction would ensue under an investigation by a *military* Court on charges brought by *citizens*, be the proof what it might, was confirmed. The result was, that after a session of near thirty days, the whole thing turned out little better than a farce. The Commandant was cleared *officially* by the Court, but it was the general sentiment of the people, that the evidence *offered* was sufficient to convict him on most of the charges, and if that which was tendered and ruled out, had been admitted, he would have been found guilty on the whole. It may be assumed, with entire confidence, that if the same charges had been instituted by the Secretary of War or the Colonel of Ordnance, instead of mere citizens, conviction would have ensued on every one of them.

The report of this trial was printed by order of Congress, and if the compilation of it had been impartially made, the money which the printing cost would not have been *wholly* thrown away.

The quarters occupied by the Superintendent up to the year 1821 were of wood, and although not very contracted in size, the style was sufficiently humble. In the year 1820, Hon. John C. Calhoun, the then Secretary of War, being on a visit of observation at the Armory, of his own accord, and without solicitation on the part of Col. Lee, the Superintendent, suggested to that officer, that he ought to be better accommodated: and not long after, the necessary authority was granted to provide a commodious and substantial dwelling; and the building for that purpose was commenced in the autumn of 1820 and completed in the summer of 1821. The following description, by a person who was intimately acquainted with the construction of the house in all its details, may be relied on:

The edifice was of brick, the walls 16 inches thick in the first story, and 12 inches thick in the second story; resting on a block stone cellar wall, with 2 1-2 feet hewn underpinning, all laid in lime mortar.

The wood work was done in the most thorough and workmanlike manner, and the materials of the best quality that could be procured, and fully as good as had been used up to that time in any structure in the town of Springfield or in the county of Hampden. The house was situated exactly opposite the centre of the west side of the large square, and opposite the Superintendent's office on the east side. It was of the following dimensions:

The main part 45 feet front and 40 feet rear, two stories high, besides the attic. The rear part was 35 feet by 18 feet, and two stories high. A cellar under the whole, and paved throughout with brick. The house had a portico over the front door, and a two story piazza in the rear. This house was at the time it was built (22 years before its destruction,) as to size and quality inferior to but two houses in Springfield. To those acquainted in Springfield, the house owned by John Childs, Esq. on Chestnut street, may be referred to as being on the same plan and of the same size and general finish as near as may be, except the piazza, which in the latter house, being in front, is more expensive than the one on the rear of the Superintendent's house.

When that house was vacated in 1841 by Mr. Robb, the predecessor of Major Ripley, it was in the best state of repair, as Mr. Robb has stated, and will at any time testify. While it was vacant (about two years) the ventilation was neglected, and some of the timbers of the floor over the cellar suffered. Two practical men gave it as their opinion that those timbers could have been replaced at a cost not exceeding two hundred dollars. Major Ripley not considering the house sufficiently large for his accommodation and in other respects not agreeable to his family, called two practical mechanics to estimate the cost of the required alterations. It seemed, according to the statement of these mechanics, that the kitchen part was too small, and must be taken down one door and rebuilt, and the main part demanded such essential alterations, as to make, in the opinion of those gentlemen, a difference of only about $1000 between the required alterations, and the cost of building a new one on the same site.

From this moment, if not before, the house was *doomed;* and "where there was a *will* there was a *way*; and such representations were made, first by Major Ripley to Col. Talcott, the Chief of Ordnance, and through the latter to the Secretary of War, as procured his assent to its demolition! If the Secretary could have seen the edifice which was sought to be destroyed, instead of lending his countenance to such an awful waste of public property, he would have administered to the officer asking it, a severe rebuke. The day the house was demolished, there were but very few in the beautiful town of Springfield, as commodious, as substantial, and worth as much money as that house! (See Note E.)

It was several years after, before any use was made of the site of the demolished quarters, and before the present *magnificent* edifice was built on an entirely different spot. In the meantime the Commandant was as he says in his reasons given for procuring appropriations of enormous sums of money, for this *palace*, "living in rented quarters," and the U. S. Government were in addition to his annual salary, paying the rent of those quarters.

The destruction of this valuable property caused very general indignation at the time, but it was soon ascertained that it was winked at by the Col. of Ordnance.

I now proceed to show the style of "quarters" built by the Government and occupied by the Commandant, and as near as practicable, the cost of these "quarters." As the cost of the land purchased in the neighborhood, *outside* of the territory owned by the United States, which was acquired with special reference to gratifying the ostentatious fancy of the officer who managed to procure from the Government the money for the purpose, I will give in detail, so far as the data are accessible, the cost of each parcel purchased, solely—whatever might be the pretext—for the purpose of these "quarters."

First—I will give a brief account of the acquisition of a small strip of land situated directly in front of the spot where the quarters were located. Mr. Charles Stearns was the owner, as far back as 1828, of a considerable tract of ground bordering on the westerly line of the United States territory. He had held peaceable and undisturbed possession of this property up to the early part of 1845—a period of seventeen years—and could distinctly trace his title back to a period long anterior to the ownership by the United States of any land in Springfield—indeed, for more than a century. The precise boundary between the parties was well defined and acquiesced in—manifestly by the U. States—as the Government originally built and afterward maintained the dividing fence from the time they became owners of land in that locality. In process of time, Mr. Stearns and others owning land alongside of him, joined and opened a street parallel to and bordering on the westerly line of the United States land, which was called Prospect street; and this was done in concert with the Superintendent of the Armory at that time, and he at the same time opened a short street at right angles with Prospect street through the United States ground

leading from the workshops. The owners of those lands bordering on this street, sold off building lots to various individuals, mostly armorers, and several good dwelling houses were erected on them—the *fee* of the street remaining in the original owners.

Mr. Stearns had previous to the autumn of 1843. sold all his land bordering on that street, except one lot; which in November, 1843, he conveyed to a member of the "Roman Catholic congregation of Springfield," for the known purpose of erecting a church upon it, and he sold the lot at a price much below its value to encourage the Catholics in their enterprise. This individual member of the church directly afterward conveyed the same interest to the Bishop, as is usual in such cases.

The former "quarters" built for the Superintendent, had been destroyed the summer previous, as has been stated and the site remained, as was generally supposed, to be re-occupied by the structure suited to the pleasure of the military gentleman who held the "command" of the armory, and it was more than a year after this sale for the well known purposes of a church, before the old site was known to be abandoned, and the location now occupied by the new quarters was fixed upon.

The Catholic Society, being short of means, did not immediately commence building; but early in the spring of 1845, they made contracts, with the expectation of being able to worship in their own church in the course of the year. An unlooked for obstacle, however, interposed. The "commandant" of the armory suddenly pretended to claim a large portion of the street in front of this lot, and without giving notice to any one, removed the dividing fence built by his predecessors upon the heretofore undisturbed and unquestioned lines, and took possession of the principal part of the street in front of the Catholic lot, and effectually shut out all access by teams to it. This act, arbitrary, oppressive and overbearing as it was, did not receive immediate resistance, although it would have been entirely justifiable. The Catholics very properly called on their grantor to remove the obstructions from the street, and make good the access that had been by implication warranted to them: they knew their rights, but declined having anything to do with the "commandant" in the matter. The grantor, feeling no desire to have a personal controversy with the officer, laid the matter before the Secretary of War, who visited Springfield some weeks after, and the Secretary *promised* to take measures to have it adjusted, but failed to do so. In the meantime, the operations of the church were broken up, and they were never resumed on that spot.

Under these circumstances, what was the duty and the right of the owner, the grantor and warrantor of the right to use this street to this feeble Catholic congregation?

It seems very obvious that every one who would bring this case home to himself, would say at once that the least he could do would

be to remove the fence and other obstructions so unlawfully and wilfully placed upon his ground—and that was just what he did, with the aid of several men in his employ.

The ordinary mode to settle the dispute about title—if dispute there was—would have been to commence an action for trespass in the civil courts, and *there* Mr. Stearns expected to meet the commandant; but that officer chose the desperate course of bringing the man who was contending for rights most dear to him, before a criminal court, on the charge of riot!

The first intimation that Mr. Stearns had that any measures were in preparation, was about forty-eight hours after the removal of the fence from his ground. He was arrested by the United States Marshal, and together with his men, seven in number, "transported" to Boston, 100 miles from home, for examination and afterwards for trial. Three of the men who were first arrested, were taken from their beds at midnight and lodged in the common jail.

It seems to me that these proceedings are worthy of consideration, and they have been related with some minuteness, with the view of illustrating the operation of an unrestrained military officer in a situation where he presumes on impunity. It is true that military power, united with a disposition to abuse it, is not to be expected to be encountered often; yet there is always a liability to it, and no citizen need consider himself entirely exempt from danger.

The trial was a tedious and an expensive one, and the contest, so far as the means were concerned, was a very unequal one. On one side was a citizen of the State of Massachusetts, with the limited resources which a life of hard toil had given him—and on the other, a Major of Ordnance, with the United States Government and a free and unsparing use of the money in its treasury to back him! Surely the citizen ought to have at least a *good cause* in such a contest—and so he had: the jury had no hesitation in rendering a verdict for the defendants, nor any reluctance in giving a spontaneous certificate, that there was no evidence in the case that in their opinion would justify a prosecution. Well, then, did the officer give up the contest and retire to his own side of the hedge? Not he! He rebuilt his fence, and held possession until the owner sued him on an action of trespass—got judgment in the Court of Common Pleas, which took two years; the defendant's counsel carried exceptions to the Supreme Court, which affirmed the decision of the court below; this took one year and five months more. No doubt this military officer made his calculation, and in this he was encouraged and advised by his pliant and willing counsel, that the poor man they were contending with would *break down* before a final decision could be arrived at, but happily they were mistaken. The highest tribunal in the State of Massachusetts most signally rebuked the grasping of this military chief, and placed the citizen in possession of his property attempted to be wrested from him. Anticipating what was coming, the officer having in the meantime lo-

cated his "new quarters" directly abreast of the disputed ground, manifested anxiety to "possess" it in a straightforward and honest way, and the owner scorning to take advantage of him, consented to sell it to his counsel at the appraisal of three referees—with certain conditions—which the officer's counsel himself proposed. The result of the award was, that the owner received for his property fourteen hundred dollars; and as some might be curious to know the contents of the land, it was less than fourteen square rods. This may seem an exorbitant price for so small a piece of ground—and so it would have been a year or two before; but property had taken a rapid rise in that neighborhood about that time, taking the prices the Government were paying as a criterion, for the "commandant" paid even higher prices in several instances for land that is totally and utterly useless to the Government for any purposes of the armory.

In regard to the Catholics, the transactions which I have related, set such a strong current of public feeling against the officer, that he thought it most prudent to patch up the matter by a purchase, which he did at an advance of 80 per cent. from what they paid for it.

About the time of the attempt to rob Mr. Stearns of his land, the "commandant" "possessed" himself of another lot in the immediate vicinity, belonging to a prominent citizen; but when he saw unmistakable signs of resistance on the part of the owner, he retreated without a contest, and settled up the matter by a show of honesty in the way of paying the price demanded.

It will most likely be asked, did the officer take legal counsel in these repeated acts of aggression? Yes, he did, for a legal gentleman of some repute has stated on oath, that he was consulted, and he advised to the course pursued. All the remark I have to make in regard to this legal gentleman, is, that the decisions of juries and the opinions of judges have made it highly probable that either his talents as a lawyer had been very much over-estimated, or that he had been induced by *some means* or other, to give opinions that would be likely to gratify his client, whether right or wrong. Something will appear hereafter that will throw light on this transaction.

I will now sum up in brief the cost to the Government of the lands that have been purchased and paid for from the United States treasury, with particular reference to the "*new quarters*," or in common parlance, the "*Palace*."

A list of the several lots, with the prices annexed, as near as can be ascertained, but mostly from authentic sources:

The "disputed territory,"	$1,400
Lot of George Bliss, Esq.,	450
Persis Taylor,	56
Walter H. Bowdoin, (lately Currier's,)	625
	$2,531

Amount brought forward,	$2,531
Catholic lot,	500
Samuel H. Stebbins's house and lot,	3,000
Samuel Dale, lately J. Willard's house and lot,	2,000
J. Brewer, lately C. B. Stebbins's house and lot,	2,500
	$10,525
Deduct from this the amount realized from the sales of the houses which were removed, say	1,250
	$9,325
Add to this the cost to the United States of the several law suits growing out of the attempted robbery of Mr. Stearns, which amounts, at the lowest calculation, to eight thousand dollars,	8,000
	$17,325

This last item cannot be estimated with entire accuracy, but from what is known in regard to Mr. Stearns' expenses in those suits, and the fact that Major Ripley succeeded in procuring through the influence and exertions of a member of Congress deeply interested in the proceeds, an appropriation of five thousand dollars for paying his expenses in those suits, I feel safe in stating that the expenses of this riot suit and its consequences could not have cost the Government less than three thousand dollars more. In reading the pretexts inserted in the Congressional bill making the appropriation, it is only necessary to revert to the narrative preceding it, to see the facility with which the grossest misrepresentations can be made when thought expedient.

The aggregate cost, it appears, of land acquired of individual owners, outside of the lands belonging to the United States, and of the building lot proper, for the purpose of securing an agreeable view of the surrounding country to the "quarters" occupied by a Major of Ordnance having in charge 250 to 300 men employed in the manufacture of muskets, cannot be less than seventeen thousand dollars! To this may be added the fair value of the land within the original territory of the U. S., which embraces a large tract (fully equal in quantity to what had been purchased outside,) occupied exclusively for the buildings and pleasure grounds of this princely residence, (say) $10,000, making at least twenty-seven thousand dollars. I have given the account somewhat in detail in order to aid in exemplifying the "*economy*" in practice at the armory under the command of Brevet Colonel Ripley.

In making up the cost of the land for the accommodation of these "quarters," and to minister to the luxury of its occupant, I doubt not the amount may seem over-estimated; but I assure the reader, that on a review of my statement, I cannot make any reduction; but there

might be added without injustice, several other parcels of property, which were bought at prices entirely unexampled in the neighborhood, the purchase of which, *if* not to secure beyond hazard, every possibility of preventing an obstruction to the prospect of the surrounding country from the new quarters, no one has yet been able to devise what the object could be, to pay such extravagant sums for that property. I will give a list of these as far as known :

Lot of John Mills—formerly Mrs. Starkey's—for the land alone, not exceeding 80 square rods,	$8,230
Lot of J. D. Brewer and W. H. Bowdoin, 101 by 130 feet, adjoining the above,*	1,925
Lot and house of Samuel and James Indicot,	2,325
Lot of James W. Crooks, 122 by 75 feet,	2,000
Two lots of W. H. Bowdoin,	1,731
And lastly, a lot of Roswell Shortleff, on which the Byers cottage stood, for the land alone, 319 by 100 feet, (See Note F.)	8,500
	$24,711

Besides these parcels, there was a purchase made about three years ago of several lots of Samuel Currier and others, in the neighborhood of the Catholic lot, at a cost of seven or eight thousand dollars, for like purposes as the others; but the deeds of these lots stand in the names of friends of the "Commandant" and of himself, and they are not taken into the account, although it is well understood that the property was purchased for Government account, and at a convenient time when an appropriation can be obtained for the purpose, the Government are to own these lands. I shall show hereafter, by a comparison of the prices paid for all the property which has been purchased by the "Commandant," with the valuation of the town assessors, the sort of "*economy*" practised in these transactions. It need not be inferred from the eagerness manifested by the authorities of the Armory, to "possess" the property of citizens, that the Government are straightened for want of territory, for they had already and now have, a beautifully formed tract in and adjoining "Franklin square," containing twice as much in square rods, as the whole which has been purchased by the Government of individuals which has cost over forty thousand dollars—a small part of which tract was occupied by dwelling houses owned by the Government and rented to the armorers, and the "old arsenals," all which have been sold for a trifling consideration, and a part occupied by the old powder magazine, which has been totally demolished, and the whole tract is now entirely unoccupied. I make this preliminary statement in order to remove any doubts that

* There are strong reasons to suppose that this sum is much less than was actually received for this lot, and that a valuable consideration was realized by the owners in the purchase of the houses that were removed off from the property.

may have arisen as to the actual cost and value of the lands purchased for and occupied by the "quarters" of the "Commandant," at a sum not less than twenty-seven thousand three hundred twenty-five dollars!

The "*New Palace*," according to an exact measurement, now before me, is as follows: main part, 53 1-2 feet by 47 1-2 feet; L part, 56 feet by 28 1-2 feet; the entire length, measuring from front to rear, is 109 feet, and the contents in square feet covered by the house is 3126 feet. In addition to this are wood-houses and other out-buildings of dimensions and style to match.

The cellar walls are of massive stone, averaging 2 1-2 feet thick, laid in mortar, and these walls are all cased or plated inside with a nine inch wall of the best of bricks, and the whole is partitioned by brick walls corresponding with the partitions above, a part 16 inches and a part 12 inches thick. The cellar bottom is paved throughout with pressed brick, and a part of it having a wooden floor above the pavement. The whole, walls and ceilings, plastered, and the pannel doors and other finish of the cellar compare very well with the average of *parlors* occupied by the citizens generally in Springfield and the vicinity.

The outside walls are of brick 16 inches thick; the outer course all around—rear as well as front—of the nicest pressed brick. The stone work is of red sandstone from the neighboring quarries, and consists of the base, or underpinning, three feet high, steps, door and window sills and caps, and the entire cornice; the whole executed in a style that has no example in this section, and the same style of work was laid out for the rear as for the front, and the cornice, 30 to 40 feet from the ground, was cut as fine, as work immediately in contact. The whole amount paid for *cut stone alone*, used in this *brick* house, as I have from a relliable source, was over five thousand dollars.

The inside is partitioned throughout by walls of the best of brick, a part 12 inches, and a part 8 inches thick, and all furred and lathed before plastering, which was three coats in the best style. The stories are 14 to 15 feet high, and the whole materials, from cellar to attick, of the most costly kind that could be procured, and give unmistakeable evidence that expense was a secondary consideration.

This establishment, with its fixtures and ornaments, has cost the Government, exclusive of all lands, fencing and other expenses laid out on the grounds in ornamental gardens, pleasure grounds, terraces, water-jets, &c., at the estimate of competent judges, a sum not less than forty thousand dollars. The cost of the *et ceteras* above-mentioned has been at least five thousand dollars more—many think that twice the sum above named for these fancy matters would not overgo the real cost. And when it is considered that the soil itself (the original soil being light) to make these pleasure grounds, has been transported by teams from one to two miles—and the water which supplies this *comfortable* establishment—water-jets and all—is pumped by a steam engine and conducted in metal pipes, 60 to 80 rods, and distrib-

uted over every part of the house from a reservoir in the garret,—I feel sure that whether the last estimate is too high or not, the first is entirely within bounds.

I will now post up the account of the expense of the "Commandant's" "Quarters," including the land for this officer:

Land purchased of individuals outside of U. States ground,	$17,325
Value of land occupied, owned by Government before,	10,000
Total cost of land,	$27,325
Cost of mansion and fixtures inside, *	$40,000
Cost of fences, gardens and pleasure grounds, including walks, terraces, water jets, &c., at least,	5,000
Making the aggregate cost of the lowest estimate,	$72,325

This is exclusive of the property purchased of Mills, Brewer, Shurtleff, and others, amounting to over $24,000, a part or all of which was purchased as a matter of fancy, with reference to this magnificent resting-place. The whole land so purchased has amounted to over seventy thousand dollars.

A very simple operation in arithmetic, then, will give the annual cost to the Government for *rent* of "quarters" for the accommodation of a Major of Ordnance at 6 per cent. per annum on the outlay; and it will be found to be no less a sum than four thousand three hundred thirty-nine dollars fifty cents! $4,339,50

But this is not all: the "Commandant" has occupied these "quarters" about five years; and he has found that already "extensive repairs and improvements are necessary." Indeed, these "quarters" have become "*dilapidated*" to such an extent, that he actually vacated them for a considerable time the past summer, and has occupied the house built for the master armorer—but which has laid vacant for several years—in order to give his workmen full swing and save himself and family from the annoyance of paint, varnish, mortar, &c. The expense of these repairs, as I am credibly informed, may be safely estimated at fifteen hundred to two thousand dollars. Then the annual rent for "quarters," in addition to the sum above stated; for "repairs and improvements" annually, $300 00

For use of steam engine, to pump water annually,	200 00
Which, added to the $4,339 50 above, amounts to,	$5,389 50

It might be a curious, and perhaps useful calculation to ascertain what would be the aggregate cost for "quarters" for the entire list of

* A very fair idea of the appearance of the *South side* and *rear* of these quarters may be had by reference to Harper's Magazine for July, a copy of the view of which is prefixed to this statement. The style of the front may be inferred from the representation of the parts in view.

military officers in the service of the Government, from Major General Scott down to the lowest subaltern, giving to each one "quarters" as expensive in proportion to his grade as those under consideration. There are probably but a small proportion whose pecuniary means would allow them to occupy such quarters, even if the Government was willing to provide them. The occupant of these "quarters" is fortunate in respect to pecuniary means, as is shown by an official transaction which took place in the year 1849, when his household furniture was appraised and receipted for at five thousand dollars.

I have now given the reader as intelligible and exact an account as I am able of the "quarters" built for and occupied by the "Commandant" of the United States Armory at Springfield, and although I have aimed to keep entirely on the safe side as to facts—and I believe I have done so—it is possible that my information may be erroneous in some unimportant particulars, and I shall gladly make corrections if I receive reliable information of any errors. In the main I assure the reader of these strictures, that they are substantial and reliable. I did not design, nor do I now intend, to add a single word of comment. If the Government with the facts before them, approves of such expenditures, and are willing to encourage them, let that branch of it whose duty it is to look to those matters, take the responsibility; but I would with deference suggest, that the word "*economy*" with Noah Webster's definition of it, should be entirely kept out of sight.

Having informed myself within a few weeks as to the style and value of quarters occupied by some of the officers of the Government, civil and military, of elevated grade, I give a list for the benefit of the curious in such matters.

General Scott's residence—house and land is valued at,	$10,500
General Jessup's residence—house, (exclusive of lot,)	4,000
Secretary Conrad's, " " "	5,000
Secretary Webster's " " "	5,000
Secretary Graham's, house and lot,	12,000

The foregoing are estimates of a practical builder of long experience in Washington, and are the fair value of the several mansions indicated. The whole averaging about one-fourth the cost of the commandants quarters at the Armory.

I will now give the cost of "quarters" furnished for the accommaccommodation of the Agents of the large Corporations at Lowell I have this from one of the Agents in his own language. He says: "The cost of Agent's houses at this place, exclusive of the land—but including fences, &c., has been about $6000—I don't know of but one or perhaps two that have cost much if any over that."

It hardly need be stated, that these Agents have vastly more laborious and responsible duty to perform, than a Superintendent of an Armory can have.

It has already been related that among the items of expense for lands procured for the gratification of the Commandant, in connection with his magnificient quarters, the lot belonging to Mr. Stearns was deemed indispensible; hence the bold attempt to possess it by force. Except for an appendage to the pleasure grounds, and to secure an unobstructed prospect of the surrounding country it was of no value to the Government whatever, yet in consequence of the measures taken to grasp it, it has cost a considerable sum of money. The quantity was small, and the Government had many acres of unoccupied land in the immediate vicinity, and it was entirely away from the work shops and arsenals. The location of the new quarters directly abreast of this lot instead of the site of the old demolished quarters, created the pretext for "possesssing" Mr. Stearns' land. The Commandant knew as well in the beginning, that the property he coveted did not belong to him or to the Government, as he did after that fact had been settled by the Supreme Court of Massachusetts; and his legal counsel, if he had faithfully examined the case must have known the same thing, it is not to be supposed that either of them were ignorant of this fact, but it was enough for this legal counsel,—who although originally a bitter opponent of the military system of supervision and of the Commandant himself, had shortly before this become one of his most obsequious apologists, as well as his advocate; and it was only necessary for his friend and client to intimate his *wishes*, to get a legal opinion that the object desired, belonged to him *of course*—the calculation doubtless being, that rather than enter into a contest with the Government or with an officer clothed with Governmental powers, the rightful owner would shrink with fear from a contest against such odds, and abandon his property.

It so happened that the owner although of limited means *placed an incalculable value on his constitutional and legal rights*,—a value far above dollars and cents. In regard to the *wisdom* of this individual, in following up and testing his rights, there may be different opinions, but on the question of his *rights* there is but one opinion in this community; and it is not to be supposed, that the Constitution and the law provides no redress. If it does not, there is no man however high his present station in office, who by the ordinary rotations in this elective Government is not liable at any time to be robbed of his possessions by any military officer who takes a fancy to them, and who can find a lawyer sufficiently subservient to advise him to grasp them.

These remarks are deemed pertinent in connection with an item of expenditure on account of the land in question. Among the appropriations of money made the last session of the 31st Congress was an item of Five Thousand Dollars to pay Ripley's expenses in the suits growing out of the attempted robbery of Mr. Stearns. It will be kept in mind that the attempt of the Commandant to take possession of the property of Mr. Bliss and Mr. Stearns was entirely unauthorized by

any act of the Government, and that it was solely by his own private act, under the advice of his *learned* counsel, for the gratification of his own whims, and the satisfaction of his own desires, and of no earthly advantage to the Government; yet by the most flimsy pretexts the Secretary of War was led into the belief, that the interests of the Government were in jeopardy, and it was thereby managed so as to make Secretary Marcy a victim of deception and imposition, throughout, and the Government responsible. The gentleman who acted as counsel for Major Ripley, held a high position in the Government, being Member of Congress, from the sixth Massachusetts district, and he has enjoyed the reputation of being an able leader in his party. No one will question his ability as a manager and a tactitian, and his success in procuring the appropriation by the body of which he was a member, of Five Thousand dollars of the public money under the circumstances, is good proof of his ability and of his good fortune. The language of the appropriation is as follows: "For paying expenses of suits at law to which the Superintendent of the Springfield Armory has been subjected, in establishing the title of the United States to public lands at that Armory, and in defending suits against him in his public capacity—Five Thousand Dollars: Provided that no part thereof shall be paid until the accounts shall have been submitted to, and approved by the Secretary of War."

Nothing can be plainer, than that the grounds above quoted on which the Government were called on to pay their money were deceptive and false. In the first place the Superintendent was originally subjected to *no* "*suits at law*"—on the contrary *he* has been the cause and mover of all the suits to which he has subjected himself by his own unauthorized acts, nor has he "established the title of the United States to public lands," but the result of the expenditure of the large amount of money in the "suits at law," was the confirmation of the titles of the wrongfully claimed property, in the possession of the rightful owners. A part of his claim it will be seen is for expenses consequent of an indictment by the Grand Jury of the County of Hampden, on the complaint of a large number of respectable citizens, for obstructing the public highway. The Commandant might as well have demanded of the Government to back him in the commission of any other crime he might commit, as the one for which he was indicted. This case was compromised by the purchase by the Government of all the land on the street which was obstructed, and I again repeat, that this land is of no practical use whatever to the Government.

The Secretary of War was authorized to arrest the payment of this extraordinary appropriation if after the accounts were submitted to him he did not approve them.

It seems that the Secretary had some doubts of the propriety of allowing the accounts, and it became necessary that the influence of the member of Congress I have alluded to, should again be exercised;

and he gave the Secretary to understand that they were "*all right.*" The only accounts which have yet seen the light on which the claim for "Five Thousand dollars" was founded, is herewith given as copied from an official copy from the Second Auditor's books, amounting to $2295,98, and I ask especial attention to these accounts, taken in connection with the previous transactions, and the position of the parties interested in the proceeds.

Col. James W. Ripley,

To Chapman, Ashmun, & Norton, Dr.

1845.			
Oct.	To retainer vs. Charles Stearns in trespass,		$ 5
1846.	"	Term in C. C. Pleas.	3
Feb'y.	"	Do.	3
June.	"	Do. and Preparation for trial,	20
Oct.	"	Trial and preparing exceptions,	50
Dec.	"	Consultation and going before Commissioner and objecting to highway over and beyond Prospect St.	15
	"	Retainer in indictment against you for obstructing Prospect St.	10
1847.	"	Term fee and procuring continuance.	5
May.	"	B. Clerk for fees in Stearns' first case.	10,45
	"	Term fee in indictment,	3
	"	Term fee in Stearns' first action in S. J. Court.	5
June.		Consultation as to roads on Byers' lot.	5
	"	Retainer in Stearns' second action for Trespass.	5
	"	Term fee in same case.	3
Sept.	"	Term fee in first action in S. J. Court.	5
Oct.	"	Argument of the case at law term.	85
	"	Term fee in Stearn's second action.	3
Dec.	"	Preparation for trial of indictment.	10
	"	Paid officer for summoning Holcomb and his fees,	4,30
1848.	"	Motion to quash indictment nol pros'd by advice of Court.	50
Feb.	"	Term fee vs. Stearns' second action.	3
April.	"	Do. in first action in S. J. C.	5
May.	"	Do. in indictment nol pros'd by advice of Court.	3
June.	"	Do. in second action of trespass.	3
	"	Retainer in third action and trial of second and third actions.	65
Dec. 21.		Paid judgment in third action,	8,76
1849.			
Jan.		To advise in writing jointly with H. Morris Esq. relative to Shurtlef's right of way over U. S. land.	5
Feb		Paid judgment and costs in second and third actions,	169,13
			$561,64
		Interest on the above,	58
			$619,64
		To paid E. D. Beach Esq. in 1846 in Commissions Court omitted,	8
			$627,64

Endorsement by Secretary of War.

Amount charged,	$627,64
Payment to clerk understaled,	30
	$627,94

Amount brought forward,	$627,64
Payment to Holcomb over,	10
Judgment in third action charged twice,	8,76
Interest not allowed,	58
Beach charged twice,	8
	$78,86
	$553,08

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the original account of Chapman, Ashmun and Norton, with the endorsement thereon by the Secretary of War on file at this office. 2d AUDITOR,

May 5. 1852.

Col. James W. Ripley,

1849.	*To R. A. Chapman, Dr.*	
May.	To retainer vs. Charles Stearns in U. S. Circuit Court in action for malicious prosecution,	$100
May Term.	Term fee in same case,	10
June.	To going to Boston and examining records &c., in the indictments against Stearns' and expenses,	50
Nov.	Term fee in same case,	10
1850.	Going to Boston to argue motion for assignment,	30
May.	Term fee,	10
	Going to Boston to get assignment,	30
July.	To making and filing Interrogatories for depositions of Gov. Marcy and O'Sullivan,	20
	To paid for two commissions and three supoenas,	10,25
Dec. 8.	Preparation for trial and trial of cause, Nov. 23 to 26 and Nov. 30 to Dec. 7 inclusive, (10 days.)	1000
	To paid George Ashmun for attending as a witness, &c.,	17,50
1851.	To taking his deposition in Boston,	10
Jan. 3.	Two days in Boston to examine plaintiff's report of evidence (being 80 pages of documents, &c.,)	30
22.	Going to Boston for same purpose two days and correcting the same at home two days,	50
Feb.	To paid the Marshal for summoning witnesses and money tendered to them,	9,95
	Going to Boston and argument of objections to report, and bill of exceptions before Judge Sprague,	100
		$1487,50

[Signed.] R. A. CHAPMAN.

Col. James W. Ripley,

1851.	*To R. A. Chapman, Dr.*	
Oct. 3.	To amount of my account of services &c., in the case of Stearns' vs. you as stated in the foregoing bill,	1487,50
	To paid Surveyors, witnesses fees and expenses in the suit and copies of deeds and other papers,	238,90
		$1726,40

The above cash in the last item was paid at the request of Col. Ripley, and the expenses were incurred by my advice, and I considered them necessary.

R. A. CHAPMAN.

Endorsement by the Secretary of War.

Amount charged,		1726,40
Ingersoll's receipt,	255,40	
Charged as,	238,90	
Increase,		16,50
		$1742,90

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the original account of R. A. Chapman, with the endorsement thereon by the Secretary of War, on file at this office. *Second Auditor's Office*,
5th May 1852.
P. CLAYTON,
[SECOND AUDITOR.

I wish to repeat here distinctly, that although the accounts purport to be in part in favor of Chapman, Ashmun and Norton, of which firm Hon George Ashmun then a member of Congress, was a partner, and the large part purporting to be in favor of R. A. Chapman individually, the firm of Chapman, Ashmun and Norton continued undissolved until January 1852, and there is no reason to doubt Mr. Ashmun was as much interested in the *whole* of the avails of those charges, as as he was of a part, and it is reasonable to infer, that the only motive for any division or distinction in the captions, was, to disguise as much as possible the fact that the Member of Congress by whose influence mainly the appropriation of Five Thousand dollars was smuggled through, was personally deeply interested in the proceeds!

Some explanation may be necessary, in regard to some of the items in the foregoing bill. There are charges for legal services in the first, second and third actions, in the United States Courts and the State Courts, &c.

The first legal process against Mr. Stearns was the complaint and arrest for riot and for malicious trespass—these were made separate actions, and after the trial and acquittal for riot, Mr. Stearns requested that the other process should be disposed of forthwith; but this was resisted by the U. S. Attorney, and trial was postponed. Ripley holding on to the ground as before. Mr. Stearns then commenced a suit for simple trespass in the State Courts, against Major Ripley, and *immediately* upon this, Ripley commenced a *second* suit for trespass in the United States Court, which besides the prosecution for riot already disposed of, made *three suits* pending, all depending upon the rightful title to a few rods of land, which might have been obtained by negociation if an honest and gentlemanly course had been taken, for one hundred dollars. In the course of a twelvemonth the action of Mr. Stearns was tried, in the Court of Common Pleas, and he recovered. Notwithstanding this, the military officer held on to the ill gotten property. Exceptions being carried up by the advice of Chapman, Ashmun and Norton. Mr. Stearns then under the advice of *his* counsel, notified the officer that he should take possession of his property. This brought forth from the Major threats of serious consequences if

he presumed to set his foot upon property long and peacefully held by him, and adjudged to be his, by the constituted authorities of Massachusetts. Not wishing to expose himself to the threatened consequences, Mr. Stearns' counsel advised to a second suit for trespass. The different processes growing out of the outrage of this military Superintendent of the Armory stood thus.

First—the prosecution for riot.
Second—the prosecution for malicious trespass. } In the U S Courts

Third—the suit of Mr. Stearns, against Ripley for trespass in the State Court.

Fourth—the suit for civil trespass against Mr. S. in the U. S. Court.

Fifth—the second suit of Mr. Stearns for trespass.

Sixth—the indictment against Ripley for obstructing the highway.

Besides these suits the bill of exceptions on Mr. Stearns' action was pending before the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts. Mr. Ashmun being the legal adviser of the officer in the commencement, and the whole trouble originating in consequence of his advice so far as the several processes in the U. S. Courts were concerned, felt entitled to be well paid, and so he was, but no part of the pay for his services appear in the bill under consideration, his account for those services were settled by the same authority which settled the other expenses of those suits; but the exact amount I have not the means of knowing. It is to be presumed that such valuable services were well paid. The second of those suits as well as the fourth was never tried, but they were kept upon the docket for *more than three years*, although a disposition of them was repeatedly demanded by Mr. Stearns' counsel. This itself has been felt as operating with gross oppression upon the Citizen.

Altogether these suits made a plenty of business for lawyers on both sides, and no wonder Messrs. Chapman, Ashmun and Norton had a great many charges for services—but the wonder is that the United States Government could be deceived into the belief that they were in the least responsible for those expenses, notwithstanding the deep pecuniary interest of a member of Congress. But it will be borne in mind that a most favorable time was seized upon to push this appropriation through Congress; it was the last day of the 31st Congress, and the last day of the membership of Mr. Ashmun. It will create but little surprise in those who have witnessed the excitement and confusion of a last day of a session, that with able management of interested members, bills can be slipped through, that would under other circumstances meet a prompt rejection. The balance of this appropriation amounting to two thousand seven hundred and four dollars, and two cents has not yet been called for, and whenever it is demanded, it should receive the closest scrutiny, and the whole transaction placed along side of the vaunted economy of the military Supervision of the Armories.

A transaction connected with the services or pretended services

performed by Major Ripley in 1841 and 1842 has lately been disclosed.

Major Ripley received for pay, rations and fuel as civil Superintendent of Springfield Armory from April 1841 to August 1842 over two thousand five hundred dollars. During the same time he was nominally in command at Kennebec Arsenal and he received pay and rations for himself according to his rank, for two private servants, and commutation in lieu of clothing and subsistence for the same, forage for four horses, and fuel. Major R. also charged and received during the same time mileage for frequent journeys between Kennebec Arsenal and Springfield Armory at ten cents per mile, and medical attendance furnished him and his family Major Ripley in his quartermasters account settled 29th of April 1841, charged for his personal transfer in two years to the amount of over fourteen hundred dollars *travelling* from Kennebec to inspect ordnance in Georgetown, D. C.!!!

The foregoing it is believed will be fully substantiated by reference to the proper authorities in the Treasury at Washington.

The question whether there is any blame to be attached to an officer who pockets double pay when he has an opportunity, would be likely to be answered differently by different persons and under different circumstances. but if a laborer or mechanic should do such a thing, he would be adjudged dishonest, and not fit to be trusted. In the best aspect in which such transactions could be viewed, they could hardly be in accordance with loud professions of economy in the use of the public money.

Perhaps the Chief of the Ordnance Department, who must have been cognizant of these filchings, ought to have been chiefly responsible, more especially, for the ridiculous spectacle of permitting a Major living at Augusta in the State of Maine to come to the District of Columbia a distance of 600 miles, to inspect Ordnance, when there is no time in the year, when there are not officers *living in the District* as competent to do this duty, as was the Commandant at the Kennebec Arsenal.

The system of military supervision as regards its operation on the workmen will now be considered.

It has been asserted by the advocates of the military system that the "character of the men has been raised," and their "thrift increased:" that the "workmen are characterized by an air of manliness and thrift, that suggests to the mind of the visitor the idea of amateur mechanics working with beautiful tools for pleasure;" and that they are "better off and more satisfied than they had been under the former system." Statements like these have gone the rounds in the public journals, and they give a mistaken idea of the real state of things.

It is well that the military Commandant has not boasted that he has given the workmen increased facilities for exercising their "natural and unalienable rights;" nor that he has permitted them to exercise unawed, their constitutional privileges at the ballot-box; nor that he has given them encouragement to follow the dictates of their conscien-

ces in worshipping their Maker in the mode which seemed proper to them, and in the sanctuary of their choice. Yet the claims of having extended these blessings, would have been as well founded, as the claims for other benefits to the Government, and to the workmen that have been the constant theme of self glorification for many years.

To place this subject in a light that will be appreciated, facts will be presented. It has already been stated that for many years preceding the establishment of the military rule, the men in general by dint of hard labor were as a body, in comfortable circumstances, and nothing more. A considerable portion of them lived in their own tidy and convenient dwellings, and beyond this, as a whole, they had nothing. The policy pursued by former Superintendents, of giving encouragement to the men that they might expect permanent employment so long as the work of making muskets was carried on by the Government, has operated greatly to the advantage of the Government, in effecting a great degree of perfection in the work, and of the workmen, in inducing men of good character to make permanent locations. Under that state of things if from any cause a vacancy occurred, and it was desirable to dispose of property, there was no difficulty in finding a purchaser. (See Note F.)

In regard to the disposition of property in the neighborhood of the Armory, the state of things has been sadly changed, and that change has been brought about by the entire uncertainty in employment from one month or week or even day to another. This is not because there is not work to be done, nor generally for want of skill, or for any special objection to the workmen, but from the merest whim or caprice, or personal dislike. When a man is discharged, he naturally inquires the reasons for his expulsion---and he is sometimes answered that it is for "breach of 'regulations,'" but the particular regulation broken is seldom explained. This seems oppressive, as it is a fact that there are not, nor ever have been, any printed or written regulations by which the workmen can be guided by any thing certain. Nor have any regulations been read in the hearing of the workmen for several years.

By the "Ordnance Regulations," published by order of Governt ment, by which the Commandant himself is by *law* governed, i-reads, that "the Superintendent shall *draw up* and *publish all* necessary regulations for the government of the Armory." Yet he has *wholly* neglected the performance of *his* duty in this particular, during the whole time he has had charge of the Armory. It can be considered nothing less than unmitigated despotism to require obedience to regulations which are not promulgated so as to be distinctly understood. There are what are *called* regulations given out by the subordinate officers from time to time, as the whim or caprice of the Commandant dictates, but nothing that is considered permanent, or that can be *seen* or *read*.

There has never been known at the Springfield Armory before

the introduction of the military rule, any official influence or authority whatever exercised by the Superintendent or other officers over the rights of suffrage or of conscience. The influence and authority in these respects has been repeatedly exercised by the military Commandant. One or two examples will be given, and there are many more similar cases.

In the Spring of 1851 at the annual Town meeting for the choice of Selectmen and other Town officers, there was a systematic attempt made by a numerous party, to *defeat the election*, and to permit the officers for the past year to hold over another year. The faction which took the lead in this manœuvre, called themselves by way of distinction, "*Regulators*," and with the odd ends of the several parties, and the influence brought to bear by the Armory, countenanced and encouraged as was well understood by the Commandant, the meetings were dissolved several times, by the *management* of this faction with the view of effecting the object of defeating the choice of Town officers—the Candidates on the side of law and order being particularly objectionable to the Commandant. He and the other officers of the Armory had no legal rights in the Town any more than they would have had in any other Town in the Commonwealth, living as they did on United States ground, and out of the jurisdiction of the State—but the workmen, for the most part were voters, living off the public ground, and during this contest *they* were given to understand what the "*Colonel*" expected them to do. Many from fear of the consequences voted against their own wishes, but a few acted as they thought right. It would hardly have been expected that the men would be watched by spies set for the purpose, but so it was, and the fact can easily be substantiated. Hirelings were placed in positions in which Armorers could be *marked* when they voted on the side of "law and order," and they *were marked* and reported forthwith.

The consequences which followed will be illustrated by the case of a single individual out of a number very similar, and I give it in his own words, addressed to the Military Committee of the U. S. House of Representatives.

[Copy.]

South Wilbraham, Mass., May 31st, 1852.

To the Honorable Committee on Military Affairs, U. S. House of Representatives:

Gentlemen: I have been employed on Government gun-work at contract armories and the Springfield National Armory, more than twenty years; for the last fourteen years at the latter place. After the accession of the Ordnance officer to the Superintendency, or rather "*command*" of the Armory, an order was issued prohibiting any workman from commencing or leaving off work at any other time in the day except at the beginning or end of one of the quarters of the day. The observance of this arrangement has been insisted on with great strictness.

On the day of the annual election of Town officers in Springfield, one year ago, the propelling power at the Armory was stopped one half hour before the close of the quarter of the day—a thing which would not, and could not have occurred with-

out the approbation of the "*Commandant.*" An officer of the Armory came through the shop where I worked, and notified all hands of the town meeting. This stopping of the machinery and of the men from work, had never, to my knowledge, occurred before on account of any Town meeting, but it was always optional with the workmen to continue at work on election day if they chose.

I was satisfied by what had been done at a previous town meeting and from what I heard and saw before going to this meeting, that an effort would be made by those under the influence of the "Commandant" of the Armory, to break up the Town meeting without transacting the regular business; and determined to give my vote against it. I made up my mind on this subject, in full anticipation of the consequences to me, and told my family that I should in all probability be dismissed from the Armory for my vote at that election. I went to the meeting and voted with the majority of the citizens, and in opposition to the faction calling themselves "regulators." Before the close of the day I was accosted by an officer of the Armory, who is notoriously active in carrying out the measures of the "Commandant," as follows: "Why did not you help put down those fellows," meaning the citizens who voted as I did to go into the election of municipal officers. I replied, "because I did not wish to put them down." This officer lives on the public ground, is not taxed, is not a resident, is not a citizen, and has no right to vote in Town or State elections.

Soon after this meeting, I was discharged from the Armory, without notice, without ceremony, without a reason given. Had any objections been entertained to my personal character, or the character of my work, I suppose I should not have been kept at work fourteen years. Another was immediately put in my place. I have never to this day had a doubt but that my vote on the occasion referred to, taken with my known political opinions was *the* reason of my expulsion from the Armory.

I had provided myself with a tenement, wishing and intending to remain in it, as my home, but by the persecution of the "commandant," I have been obliged to quit my homestead and move my family out of Town.

All the foregoing I state as under oath. I have the honor to be Gents,

Your Obedient Servant,

LYMAN PHELPS.

[Copy.]

The undersigned certify that they are acquainted with Mr. Lyman Phelps of South Wilbraham, that he is a citizen of strict integrity, respected for his moral worth, his general intelligence, and his skill and capacity as an Armory Mechanic. His statements may be implicitly relied on for their honesty and truth.

(Signed,)

ALANSON HAWLEY,
NATHANIEL HOWARD,
P. H. GROVER,
JAMES WILSON,
CALVIN TORREY,
DANIEL COLLINS,
WILLIAM CHANDLER.

Springfield, Mass., May 31st, 1852

I have only to state in addition, that some ten or twelve other men were discharged from work about the same time, and as was well understood for the same cause.

The next class of cases of workmen discharged was for not complying with the request of the Commandant, communicated hrough his subordinates, to sign a memorial to Congress *approving* he military command of the Armory—and subsequently for refusing to sign a paper under the following caption;

"We, the undersigned, desiring to be employed in the U. S. Armory, hereby certify that we are satisfied with the present system of Government, hours of labor, and price of work."

The signing of these papers was urged upon the workmen with great pertinacity. At the first, very few would submit to sign a declaration expressing sentiments contrary to their sense of right, and the papers were presented and urged again and again, accompanied with significant threats of the consequences of refusal. The effect was that a majority signed, but from the subsequent declarations of many of them, it may be safely stated, that left to their own unbiassed inclination, there would not have been ten signatures of Armorers to those papers. The discharges for refusal to sign these papers have been numerous. I will give the statement of one of them, addressed to Hon. C. M. Conrad, Secretary of War, and one addressed to a member of the Military Committee.

[COPY.]

Springfield, August 2d, 1852.

HON. C. M. CONRAD, *Secretary of War*—

SIR:—Believing it to be a duty which I owe to myself at the present time, and under the present circumstances, it is my desire to make you acquainted with my case.

On the 24th of last December I was employed by the acting Master Armorer to work in the Armory at this place. My work has been well done, of which I have received compliments to that effect from the foreman of the shop. Everything was going on well with me until the foreman asked me to sign a petition to "let the *Colonel* know who his friends were". I objected to signing on the grounds that I was the Colonel's friend without signing as well as with. Next in order was a document purporting to come from your honor, compelling the workmen to sign their names in a Register, to the effect that all persons wishing employment after the 30th of June last past under the *present system*, must sign to that effect, or other men would fill their places. I could not for a moment believe the order came from your hands, consequently I refused to sign it.

I am now debarred the privilege of working, having had orders from the Master Armorer that there would be no more work for me for the present. There is now in the office at the present time, pieces of work in an unfinished state, on which I have worked for six months past, but cannot finish it, because I have refused to sign documents which every honest, candid, hard-working, man considered tyranical and unjust. The above statements are true facts, as relating to my case. Believing that your ears are open to the appeals of those who seek for an honest living, I humbly present to you my case, trusting you will not pass it by unnoticed. If the order came from your hands, I humbly bow to your will, and I shall meet my fate trusting that I have done my duty, my whole duty, and nothing but my duty.

I have the honor to subscribe myself your obedient servant,

(Signed) CHARLES H. SANDERSON.

[COPY.]

The undersigned, having been acquainted for years with Mr. Charles H. Sanderson, commend him and his statements to the Secretary of War, as entitled to the fullest confidence. He is known here as a good citizen and of excellent character for truth and veracity. (Signed) G. W. HARRISON.
J. C. STEBBINS,
N. A. WELLMAN,
AUSTIN STEWART.

Springfield, August 5th, 1852.

[COPY.]

Springfield, May 3rd, 1852.

HON. CHAS. J. FAULKNER, *U. S. House of Representatives*—

SIR:—I was employed in the Springfield Armory as a Stocker, at the time Col. Ripley's remonstrance to the citizens petition for change of Superintendency was brought into the work-shops to be signed by the Armorers. I was called into another room by the officer of the shop, and urged *again* and *again* to sign the paper. I declined; I was then told if I signed the paper "it would be an advantage to me," and if *not*, "you know where you stand," a phrase which I and all understood as a threat of expulsion from the Armory. There was but a few who signed the first time of its presentation. On a subsequent day I was called up again by the same officer and urged by the same considerations to sign my name. I declined, on the grounds, as I stated to the officer, that it was contrary to my principles to take an active part in sustaining such a kind of government as existed here *now*. Several days afterwards I was called up the third time, and the same language addressed to me as before, but I positively declined giving my name. Since I have been unconditionally discharged without a moments notice.

No one who did not witness the pressure brought to bear on the individual workmen, can have an adequate idea how much an honest, conscientious man had to resist in withholding his name. Many were almost forced to sign who were opposed to doing so for good reasons—many held out till the third call and *then*—surrendered.

A room mate of mine was one. When asked why he submitted after so much resistance, he replied he had a little real estate here, and if discharged from the Armory he would be obliged to sell it for less than the value of it, therefore a dismissal from the Armory would be a great damage to him. The orders for my discharge came through the officer through whom all orders for the discharge of workmen came from the Superintendent. LAWRENCE STEARNS.

I now give a sample of influence in *Church matters*, and have to remark in connection with this subject, that the Commandant and his acting Master Armorer are zealous and efficient members of the Episcopal church. Large expenditures having been made upon the Church during the years 1850–'51, it was deemed very desirable to increase the number of pew holders and tax payers as much as possible, and it was a notorious fact that, through the influence of the officers of the Armory, many armorers, members of other religious societies, left their usual places of worship, and hired seats in the Episcopal Church. It was openly declared by many of these individuals, that their motive was, to render secure their situations in the Armory, and from no particular sympathy with the Episcopal forms of worship. The effect has been to weaken very materially the support of several of the other religious societies in the City.

A copy of the affidavit of one individual is inserted as a sample of one mode of gaining proselytes.

[COPY.]

I, James Otis of Springfield, in the County of Hampden and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, of lawful age, on oath depose and say, that I am thirty-seven years of age, and from the time when I was about seventeen years old till the spring of 1851, I was employed in the U. S. Armory, at said Springfield, with the exception of about two years from 1842 or 1843.

Within the last ten years I have attended public worship generally at the Universalist church, and never at any other except at the Methodist. In the spring of 1850 I was employed as a striker at the forge, in which capacity I had worked for at least ten years of the time when I had been employed in the Armory. For a year or more previous to that time I had made frequent requests to be employed as a foreman, and had as often been promised employment in that capacity as soon as there was a chance for me. In the spring of 1850, Mr. Erskine S. Allen, the Master Armorer, came to me and enquired why I did not attend the Episcopal Church? I told him that I could not afford to hire a pew there, that my wages were not sufficient to support my family and enable me to hire a pew there; but that if I could be foreman I would hire two seats there for myself and my wife. He told me that I had better take a whole pew—that I could let a part of it, and that I could afford to hire a whole pew if I was made foreman—and that Col. Ripley would think better of me if I had a pew there, and intimated that it was for the advantage of men employed in the Armory to go to the Episcopal Church to attend service. I finally agreed to hire a whole pew, and did so, and paid the rent for one year, for which I have my receipts. I was immediately made foreman. During the whole year I was never in the Episcopal Church, nor as I believe, did my wife ever go into it. I continued to be foreman till I was discharged, about a year afterwards. The cause of my discharge I could never learn, nor did I, during the time, know of any fault being found with my conduct or my work.

(Signed,) JAMES OTIS.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Hampden S. S., June 3rd, 1852.

On this day appeared James Otis, above named, and made solemn oath that the above statement by him subscribed was, to the best of his knowledge and belief, true, before me.

In testimony whereof I, a Justice of the Peace and Notary public, have hereto set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

(Seal) AUGUSTUS L. SOULE,
Justice of the Peace and Notary Public.

It is well known that favors in various forms, are extended to members of the Episcopal Society, and that no instance has occurred of a discharge from the Armory of a *reliable* member of that church.

The treatment to workmen in withholding their earnings will be found to be worthy of regard.

By the Ordnance regulations (which are of binding force upon the officers of the Armory,) article 32, section 5, it is provided, that, "whenever at National Armories, Arsenals, or Ordnance Depots, any hired workman shall, through incompetency, carelessness or design, spoil any piece of work in the execution of which he may be engaged, it shall be the duty of the Superintendent or Commanding officer to cause the amount of injury to be estimated, and give the necessary orders to the paymaster to stop the same from the pay of such workman." This is a very suitable regulation, and no one would complain of its operation. The Commandant at Springfield however, has in numerous instances gone entirely beyond the letter of *his* printed regulations, and in the most arbitrary and oppressive manner, held workmen accountable for loss which has not been caused by any fault of theirs, but by his

own want of skill and judgment in making foolish experiments. One or two examples follow, which in regard to their manifest injustice, and the crushing efforts on the workmen, are given to show the utter disregard of the Commandant to regulations established for his own direction in duty, and of his contempt for the rights of those placed under his power.

[Copy]

I, Horace Camp, of the City of Springfield, in the county of Hampden and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, depose and say that I am employed in the United States Armory in this place, and have been since June 1848; and prior to my engagement here, I worked for Geo. Hoadley, of the city of New Haven, Conn., at blacksmithing on coach work for a period of eighteen consecutive years next preceding.

The way I came to be employed in the Armory, I was here on a visit and Mr. Perkins, then acting Master Armorer, induced me to leave the employment of Mr. Hoadley and engaged here by his urgent solicitations.

My first work in the Armory for the first year and a half, was putting on points of bayonets, and I was told by the Inspector, Mr. Rufus Chandler, that I performed the work better than any one before me. In the autumn of 1848 I was ordered by the foreman of the shop to undertake the experiment of making the blade and neck of the bayonet of *solid cast steel*; (the material previously used was double sheer steel,) I told him I was willing to try. He told me I should not be a loser, as it was an experiment. It was several months after I commenced the experiment, before the work was finished up and proved, so that it could be ascertained how it succeeded, but as I felt anxious to know, I inquired several times of the Foreman and he said it was doing very well. I found by experience that the steel would not work, and the experiment proved a failure. Four other good workmen undertook to accomplish the same experiment, with the same steel, but all of them failed. I drew my pay monthly until I gave up the job as impracticable, and had no expectation that I should be held responsible for the failure. The next pay day after I left this job, I found standing to my credit for my whole month's work, *forty eight cents*; my month's work amounted to about forty dollars; the whole except the forty-eight cents, was kept *back* to pay in *part* for condemned work done on the experiment.

The second month I earned between thirty and forty dollars, but was paid nothing; the *whole* being kept back to pay for condemned work as before.

The third month I earned from thirty to forty dollars, the whole being kept back as the two months previous. The whole amount which has been charged to me, and which has been deducted from my hard earnings, was one hundred forty-one dollars and forty-one cents, and it was done directly contrary to the assurance given me by the officer during the whole time I was at work on the experiment, that I should not be a loser. After this I went to work welding up sockets, and have earned about forty dollars per month. I found by bitter experience that this treatment has operated to distress myself and family. I had a wife and seven children looking to me for support, and had no other means than my hands, and this was at the commencement of an inclement winter. I was reduced to to the necessity of obtaining credit wherever I could; I became indebted to one trading concern, to an amount of over one hundred dollars, and it is not yet paid up; and notwithstanding my neighbors, of their own free will, rendered me considerable assistance, my family suffered severely for the necessaries of life About this time my former employer, Mr Hoadley, called on me and proposed to have me return to his employment, but I could not as I had not the means requisite to get away.

(Signed) HORACE CAMP.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Hampden S. S., June 21st, 1852.

Then personally appeared the above named Horace Camp, and made oath to the truth of the foregoing affidavit by him subscribed,

Before me, O. A. SEAMANS,
Justice of the Peace.

The sequel of this case is yet to be related. Mr. Camp struggled along, without making any public statement for more than two years, when learning that the subject of change of superintendency of the Armory was under consideration in Congress, he made this affidavit, which was laid before the Secretary of War, through whom it was communicated to the Commandant of the Armory. *Immediately* upon which, Camp was discharged from employment, and in addition to that he has been deprived of his earnings as will appear by a second affidavit which is as follows:

[COPY.]

I, Horace Camp of Springfield, in the County of Hampden and State of Massachusetts, depose and say that I have been employed as a forger in the United States Armory at Springfield, that I was unexpectedly and suddenly discharged from service there on the seventeenth day of July last, without having received any previous notice whatever; and on the twenty-third of said month, I repaired to the office of the Paymaster of the Armory for the purpose of drawing pay for my labor for the month of June, which amounted to about forty-eight dollars. The Armory pay roll was produced for me to sign, and the Clerk inquired of the Paymaster if I should sign it; being told that I must, I signed my name to the pay roll as is usual before the money is handed over, which I suppose is considered in all cases a receipt. After signing the paper, Mr. Ingersoll, the Paymaster, informed me that I could not be paid until all my work had gone through inspection.

I have thus been deprived of the money due me for my labor for the month of June, for which the Government has my receipt for the whole amount. My pay for labor performed in July, up to the time of my discharge is also due, and I know not that I shall receive anything for that. I am informed that keeping back pay after signing the roll is not in practice here, and that I am the victim of a new regulaiton got up for the occasion. I know not the cause of such management, and believe it to be an unprecedented proceeding.

I have made application for a chance at labor in the City of Hartford, twenty-five miles distant, and with the expectation of success, but the Government here have managed to defraud me, insomuch that I have not the means of removing my family thither, and it is now suffering severely for the lack of my monthly wages, which are now withheld from me without cause or provocation.

Dated at Springfield, this third day of August, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and fifty-two. (Signed) HORACE CAMP.

Hampden S. S., August 3rd, 1852.

Then the above named Horace Camp made oath to the truth of the foregoing statement. Before me, HEMAN SMITH,
Justice of the Peace for said County.

This retention of a man's wages after receipting for the same, is unprecedented so far as known, and it seems to be a case that requires a particular investigation by the proper authorities. Camp has made a third written statement, to the effect, that he has since called at

the pay office for the money due him, that he earned in the month of June last, and up to the time of his discharge July 17th, and the paymaster answered him that there was nothing due him, and further that there was still sixty dollars balance against him for the damage to the work done on the experiment more than two years ago!!

The result has been that after being out of employ for a short time, Camp has returned to the employ of Mr Hoadley at New Haven, and has been obliged to leave a large amount of unpaid debts behind him, incurred for house rent and other necessaries of life for his family, and his neighbors assisted in furnishing the means to remove his family to New Haven.

One more case in connection with the experiment tried by Camp. The workman, Mr. Amos B. Morrill, states the case as follows:

"I have worked in the U. S. Armory at Springfield about three years. In the autumn of 1849 I was at work in the shop on the "hill," near where I owned a dwelling house, and was requested to go to the water shop to weld sockets on to bayonet blades, for which I used 'Jessups' cast steel.' Working about four days, and welding between four and five hundred sockets and lost but *three* in that number.

Having used up the steel, I had a quantity sent me to work, with the request that the bayonets on which this steel was used, should be kept separate rom the others I then worked four days more, using the new steel, welding about five hundred sockets. I saved only *seventy-five* of this lot. I found the first day, that the steel would not work, and I told the foreman so, but he encouraged me to keep on, and gave me to understand that the thing was an experiment, so I did not consider myself responsible for the failure. I afterwards told Col Ripley the result of the experiment, and asked him if he expected I should sustain the loss of the work. He said "that is the rule." I then told him the steel was rotten and no one could work it; that I must quit and he might get some other person to take my place. He answered "*the steel cannot be rotten, for it has not been made more than a fortnight.*"

When I went to the office for my pay, I had about fifty dollars deducted from my earnings on account of that experiment, besides losing my time, which in all amounts to between sixty and seventy dollars.

I afterwards learned that my experiment was similar to one which Horace Camp made for the Government and failed before I undertook."

Mr. Morrill is well known to be a first rate workman and a highly respectable man. Sometime after, he left employment in the Armory, and went into Colt's revolver manufactory at Hartford; the Commandant *persisted* in his experiment and three other good workmen sucessively tried it, and it was abandoned as a failure. The question is a pertinent one—is there no remedy for abuses like these? An honest hard working man is *ordered* to make an experiment which he and others practically acquainted with the material provided for use, considered extremely doubtful, he is assured by the officer that he "should not be a loser," the experiment was persisted in, when if the *master armorer* had done *his duty*, it would have been abandoned without serious loss, — the workman

is defrauded of his honest due, and his family deprived of the means of support. He struggles along at his old branch, and supports his family, but is unable to pay the debts incurred during the experiment, at last he makes his affidavit of the facts, and he is discharged from employment in consequence — his best earnings are kept from him, and he is obliged to return to the employer for whom he had worked many years previous. It would seem that there ought to be some remedy in cases like these, and it would be doing even handed justice for the proper authorities to deduct the amount which has been wrongfully retained from the earnings of Camp, Morrill and others from the salaries of the Commandant and Master Armorer, and pay it over to those who are entitled to it The Constitution and the law *ought* to give protection to the humble citizen and common laborer, from the oppressions and exactions of those in power, and in cases like these, when the Government being through their officers the party that commits the wrong, and the victim has not the means of redress which would be open to him if an individual or a corporation had done it, some way should be open for relief.

Many other facts connected with the administration of the duties of Superintendent of the Armory similar to those which have been stated might be adduced to demonstrate that the pretexts on which the military supervision was substituted for the civil, more than ten years ago, has proved a complete failure. Instead of the promised economy, there has been unbounded profusion and waste; instead of a reduction in the cost of the arms, the cost has materially increased notwithstanding the diminished cost of the raw material, and the reduction in the pay of the men; instead of an improvement in the quality of the musket it has been allowed to become deteriorated in quality, notwithstanding the large expenditures for improved machinery. And instead of the condition of the workmen being improved, the stability of their situations have been made dependent, not on their good workmanship and their unexceptionable conduct, but on the caprice and whim of the Commandant, from whose fiat there is no appeal, whether he is influenced by the interests of the Government or by his own vindictive feelings; in this respect the Armorer has not the privilege that the common soldier has of knowing the charges against him; the men have also repeatedly been, and are always liable to be overawed and controlled in the exercise of their rights of suffrage, — a thing entirely unknown before the military rule — they are also favored or discountenanced, according to their conformity or non-conformity to the known wishes of the high officers of the Armory as to their place of religious worship; and they have been in a manner compelled to sign papers containing declarations known to be untrue, and expressing sentiments which in their souls they reject and abhor, and which after signing, many of them have repudiated; and this has been required under the proclaimed penalty of expulsion from the

Armory. Finally these men have been the victims of various regulations which have never been published or which they have the means of knowing; and they have had their earnings wrongfully withheld from them under the pretext of paying for damages for which the officers are justly liable.

Extracts from the "Ordnance regulations" as published by authority in the year 1839, and the practices at this Armory in violation of those regulations.

In section 2 article 14 it reads, " A thorough and complete inspection of the national armories and arsenals of construction shall be made annually; and of all other ordnance depots, at least once every two years. At these inspections it shall be the special duty of the inspecting officers to see that the laws, regulations and orders of the department are faithfully executed, and to give the necessary orders and instructions in *writing* at the time of inspection in connection of any right or departure therefrom, he will ascertain whether the persons employed at the national armories, and arsenals, are efficient in the performance of their duties; whether the number exceeds that required to execute by constant employment the business of the establishment, and in case of any excess beyond what may be necessary, he will report the number to the Superintendent for discharge."

No one will pretend that this regulation is complied with at all in the manner contemplated.

In section 5 article 24 it is ordered that "the Superintendent of the armory shall have the management and direction of the business, and shall conduct the correspondence of the armory, he shall draw up and publish under the direction of the chief of the Ordnance department all necessary regulations for its internal government." The only remark necessary in regard to that article is, that so far as "drawing up and publishing regulations" it has been entirely neglected.

In article 5 section 60 the language is, "No hired or enlisted man engaged in the service of the Ordnance Department, at any national armory, arsenal ordnance depot, or with any military command, shall be employed for the private benefit of officers or other persons, *with or without compensation*; and no public property appertaining to the Ordnance Department shall under any pretense, be sold, exchanged or used for the private benefit of any person or persons whatsoever; the public workshops, tools and materials must be used solely for purposes of public benefit, and all private work in the public buildings and all other application of public means to any other than public purposes is expressly prohibited. It shall be the special duty of all officers or other agents of the Ordnance Department, and especially inspectors, to see that this regulation is strictly observed."

The provisions quoted above, have been violated at this Armory

in numerous instances a fact which can be substantiated at any moment.

"The regulations for the government of the Ordnance Department" are *printed, and every officer is furnished with a copy*, the violation of them in any essential particular then is inexcusable, and should be punished at least as severely as workmen are punished for violating rules *they never had an opportunity to see or read*— viz. by expulsion from service — and if a few examples of punishment like this, had been inflicted on the principal officers years ago, the effect would have been salutary. As the practice has been in certain particulars, the Ordnance regulations are a dead letter, and apparently wholly disregarded by the officers.

HARPER'S FERRY ARMORY.

The compiler of the foregoing facts in relation to the Springfield Armory, has been furnished with a statement respecting the management at Harper's Ferry, which was not prepared in season to insert in full. It shows, however, that the military system produces there like results as here, and it goes strongly in support of the reasoning of the Military Committee in their report, that the military system of supervision "is wholly unsuited to a civil establishment, and is illy adapted to the habits and tastes of our freeborn mechanics. It has not promoted economy in the general expenditure of these establishments, but on the contrary a tendency to waste and extravagance has been manifested; and not only the existing system has been without any beneficial results to the Government, but its operation has been injurious in the adoption and extension of a principle hostile to the character and genius of our institutions."

The following table showing the comparative, appropriations and expenditures, and the number of arms manufactured in ten years each of the Civil and Military Superintendencies at Harper's Ferry, shows similar results as regards the comparative cost of the musket and also the expenditures for special objects, as at Springfield:

HARPER'S FERRY ARMORY UNDER CIVIL SUPERINTENDENCY.

Year	Am't appropriated.	Am't expended.	No. of arms fabricated.	Rifles.
1831 Annual	$180,000 00	$187,511 13	11.160	
1832 "	180,000 00	223,298 99	12,000	
1833 "	180.000 00			
" Special	50,295 00	209,000 39	12,000	
1834 Annual	180,000 00			
" Special	46,704 73	220,410 48	12,000	
1835 Annual	165.000 00	169,689 64	10,000	1714
1836 "	165,000 00			
" Special	77,897 00	192,762 46	9,150	1800
1837 Annual	180,000 00			
" Special	62,312 00	190,698 98	8,200	
1838 Annual	180,000 00	240,483 89	12,000	2934
1839 "	180,000 00	182,387 51	5,850	
1840 "	180,000 00			
" Special	50,000 00	174,453 56	8,304	422
	$2,057,208 73	$1,990,697 03	100,664	6870

Average cost from the year 1831 to 1840, both inclusive, on 107,534 arms, is $18 51. From this should be deducted the fair value of the betterments to the Armory during these ten years, paid for out of the special appropriations.

HARPER'S FERRY ARMORY UNDER MILITARY COMMAND.

Year	Am't appropriated.	Am't expended.	No. of arms fabricated.	Rifles.
1842 Annual	$175,000			
" Special	30,000	$159,825 15	6,575	1301
1843 Annual	150.000			
" Special	30,500	118,694 70	3,105	
1844 Annual	100.000			
" Special	12,000	129,683 29	600	2700
1845 Annual	180.000			
" Special	18.000	168,451 54	2,225	
1846 Annual	150,000			
" Special	128.360	235,613 61	12,203	700
1847 Annual	180,000			
" Special	17 770	262,824 61	12,000	3054
1848 Annual	180,000			
" Special	53,091	253,534 16	11,000	2802
1849 Annual	180.000			
" Special	62,820	237,227 56	8,300	1925
1850 Annual	180,000			
" Special	50.560	219,414 25	9,600	2676
1851 Annual	180.000			
" Special	23,100	252,088 69	11,100	3050
	$2,081,201	$2,042,367 58	76,708	18,208

Average cost from the year 1842 to 1850, both inclusive, on 84,916 arms, is $21 51. Difference in the average cost, $3, which on 94,916 arms, amounts to $284 748
Deduct amount paid from ordnance appropriations, 11,048

Excess, $270,700

From this should be deducted the fair value of the betterments to the Armory during these ten years, paid for out of the special appropriations.

NOTE A. p. 13.

At a very full meeting of citizens at the Town Hall, on the 15th of April 1842, after discussion, in which several of the leading men of the town participated. the following Resolutions, drawn up by a prominent citizen not now a resident in Springfield, were passed — it is believed unanimously.

1st. *Resolved,* That as citizens of the United States we claim the right to express our opinions of the management of the Armory in this town, as we do on any and all the affairs and institutions of the Government.

2d. *Resolved,* That we believe the system of Military Superintendence, now adopted and administered in the Armory in this town, to be prejudicial to the interests of the Government, and unjust and cruel towards the Armorers, degrading to freemen and unsuited to the character of New England mechanics.

3d. *Resolved,* That we believe that a *civil* and not a military Superintendent in the Armory, would best subserve the interests of the Government.

4th. *Resolved,* That we would have the affairs of the Armory conducted with economy, regularity and energy, but we believe these ends can be attained without military tyranny and haughtiness, and without treating the workmen as machines and rebels.

5th. *Resolved,* That while we sympathise with the Armorers under oppressions which seem to have been exercised to experiment on the endurance of freemen, we rejoice that like true citizens of New England, they have chosen to seek redress by constitutional and peaceable means, rather than by riotous and disorderly proceedings.

6th. *Resolved,* That we believe that the Ordnance Board is an irresponsible power, grown up in our government, which ought to be abolished, because it is wasteful in its expenditures, selfish in seeking its own ends and emoluments. and grasping at power.

7th. *Resolved,* That the extra pay for extra services claimed and allowed to officers of the army, is inconsistent with our republican institutions, and that the fact that such payments are claimed and received in express violation of law, show an alarming ascendancy of the military power in our country.

8th *Resolved,* That it is expedient to select a Committee of three as a delegation to proceed to Washington and have an interview with the President and Members of Congress on the subject.

9th. *Resolved,* That the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the Chairman and Secretary, and published in all the papers in this town.

(Signed,) ELIJAH BLAKE, *Chairman.*

JAMES W. CROOKS, *Secretary*

The delegates appointed were George Ashmun, Elisha Gunn and Philo F. Wilcox.

Mr. Ashmun's business engagements preventing him from going to Washington, Mr. Henry Vose was appointed, and to him the public were indebted for the memorial presented to Congress by the citizens' and armorers' Committee.

NOTE B. p. 13.

To the Honorable, the Senate and the House of Representatives in Congress assembled.

The undersigned, citizens of Springfield, Massachusetts, in behalf of the Armorers employed in the national Armory in that place, and of the citizens of the town, respectfully pray that the existing law, placing the National Armories under the charge of Civil Superintendents. may be retained, and that no act may be passed by Congress, which shall put a military Superintendent over the Armories.

They respectfully pray that no change may be made in the Superintendency, as it has always existed at the Armories—inasmuch as all the purposes, intended by the establishment of the Armories, may be attained under a civil Superintendent—that *Economy* and *Perfection* in the construction of muskets may be reached as readily in the Armories, under a civil as a military Superintendency, if a proper person be appointed as Superintendent. That a civil Superintendent, properly qualified for the place will organize and conduct the Armories in accordance with the best interests of the government and in a manner tending to acquire the confidence of the Armorers, and to enlist their interest and pride in the good order and success of the establishments,—while those minutiæ of discipline, which are the necessary result of a Military Superintendency, and which have already been partially introduced into the Armories, since the civil Superintendent was removed, and which may be proper in the organization of the Army and Navy, but which are degrading, oppressive and tyrannical, when applied to intelligent and high-minded citizen mechanics, will be avoided; and inasmuch as, if a military Superintendency be sanctioned by an act of Congress, and be continued, skillful workmen, who have sufficient character and intelligence to be possessed of any self-respect, will avoid the Armories, and the Government must lose the services of those at present employed in them, whose long experience in the manufacture of muskets, and whose faithful service to the Government for a long series of years, together with their many valuable inventions and improvements in machinery, of which the Government is now reaping the benefit, and for which they have never received a dollar of compensation, would seem to give them some claim upon its favor and leniency—and inasmuch as the location of the Armories is entirely beyond the control of the citizens, and as they introduce into the towns where they are established, large bodies of men, who go to make up the character and welfare of the towns for good or for evil, the citizens of the town where they are located have a direct local interest as citizens of the Union; that on this account, the citizens of Springfield are desirous of retaining among them, if the Armory is to be continued in this town, the present body of Armorers, who now rank with the best citizens of the place in intelligence and moral worth, and they would avoid the introduction into the town of an equal number of citizens of a different character who they believe must be inferior in all the qualities which make good and valuable citizens, and destitute of that self-respect and high worth, which would prevent them from working under a system, apparently copied from the regulations of a penitentiary, and fitted only to control that class of mechanics who find it necessary to enlist in the service.

And, with these views, the undersigned respectfully suggest that the combined interests of the Government, the Armorers, and the citizens can be best subserved under a Civil Superintendency of the Armories

(Signed,) JOS C. FOSTER, TITUS AMADON, JOSEPH R. HOPKINS. } In behalf of the Armorers.

HENRY VOSE, ELISHA GUNN, PHILO F. WILCOX. } In behalf of the Citizens of Springfield.

Washington, April 6th, 1842.

NOTE C. p. 22.

The following copy of a letter, written by Col. Geo. Talcott of the Ordnance Department, shows the estimation in which the services of Mr. John Robb were held after he had held the office of Superintendent of the Springfield Armory for more than three years:

"ALBANY, Feb. 1st, 1837.

TO COL. GEORGE BOMFORD, *Ordnance Office, Washington:*

SIR:—I understand from Mr. Robb, the Superintendent of the Springfield Armory, that in case of a vacancy at Harper's Ferry, he would be willing to be transferred to that establishment.

I have no hesitation in saying, that in case an appointment is to be made, Mr. Robb would fill the place with much advantage to the interests of the Government. His three years experience at Springfield is invaluable, and in the present depressed state of affairs at Harper's Ferry, I am certain that no better measure can be devised to improve the condition of things than by transferring Mr. Robb.

Very respectfully, I am Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) G. TALCOTT,
Lieut. Col. and Inspector.

It is not at all probable that Col. Talcott would have spoken in these high terms of estimation of Mr. Robb's services, if the latter had failed to discharge his duties as Superintendent of the Armory, more especially, if he had "neglected" the care of the public property, or allowed it to become "dilapidated" The charges made and repeated by the present military Commandant, of neglect of duty in his predecessors in office, are nothing more or less than deliberate slanders, for the unworthy purpose of ingratiating himself with his superiors and making capital with the public.

NOTE D.—IRON FENCES. p. 27.

It has been previously remarked, that the pretences set up for procuring the appropriation of large sums of money to build iron fences around the public grounds are deceptive. The fence now in process of construction shows that it is a magnificent specimen of ostentatious profusion. Taking the foundation and superstructure, it goes far beyond in style and cost, that of any fence built by Government—exceeding that around the Capitol grounds and in front of the President's House at Washington, by at least 50 per cent. by the lineal yard The fences around the Park in New York, and around the common in Boston, are good specimens of iron fences, and might be thought good enough for the purpose at the Armory, but that which has been erected in front of the Arsenals is far more expensive than either of them. There is but little additional security to the public property afforded by the iron fence beyond the wooden picket fence which was removed, and so far, it merely serves the purpose of show.

NOTE E. p45.

Soon after the process of destroying the Superintendents quarters had been commenced, a Citizen ascertained personally from two of the Committee who it was pretended had advised to the demolition of the house, and they both expressed as-

tonishment that such an act should be perpetrated, and said that a paper was brought to them to sign. which they *supposed* expressed the opinion they had given, which was, that if the extensive alterations suggested to them by the Commandant, *were to be made*, a new house on the same site could be built at a cost not exceeding $1.000 over what it would cost to make the required alterations. The other three members of the Committee were employees of the Commandant, and of course ready to subscribe to any paper desired by him.

The Citizen then addressed a letter (a copy of which follows,) to Col. Talcott of the Ordnance.

Springfield, May 25th, 1843.

Col. George Talcott,

Sir:—I hold it to be the duty of any citizen of the United States whenever he witnesses the waste of public property, to call the attention of the proper officer to the fact, so that the hand of destruction may if possible be stayed before the work is complete. I am induced by what I consider my duty to ask your immediate attention to the fact of the *total prostration* of the large brick house built for the use of the Superintendant of the Armory in this town, the act of doing which has created very great astonishment. I think you could not have been aware, that this house was a month ago among the very best houses here. and when built 22 years ago was the best with the exception of *two* in the town It is now a *heap* of *ruins*, and the materials saved are worth but little more than the cost of taking them apart. I understand a council of builders was called a year or more since, and were requested to give an opinion as to the cost of making very essential additions and alterations compared with the cost of pulling the whole down and building anew. I have seen two of the most skillful of that council, and they say they never advised to any such thingas destroying the house, and they are as much astonished at what is going on as others

I do not write this in the spirit of meddling with matters out of my sphere, having always great objections to interfering with others concerns ; and with exception of undertaking a journey to Washington last winter, the purpose of which you well know I have had nothing to do with the Government concerns here; I cannot however be satisfied to see this great waste without asking your attention to it—and now I am on the subject of waste of the public property, I have it from sources on which the *very best* reliance can be placed, that there has been for a long time past great want of economy in various branches of the U. S. works here.

If you see fit to institute an inquiry and will *make* it *thorough* I pledge my reputation that you will discover sufficient to lead you to wish that it had been done sooner. Respectfully yours, C. S.

The answer of the Col. of Ordnance was any thing but encouraging to a *citizen* to report to him any delinquincies in duty of any *military officer* under his command, however pure and disinterested his motives might be. He gave him to understand that "he had consented to the act of destroying the house, and that if it was an error of judgment, that was the most that could be made of the measure" !!! The Col. of Ordnance evidently considered any interferance on the part of a *citizen*, even by giving informatinn of the unwarranted destruction of public property as impertinent intermedling, and deserving his haughty rebuke. Subsequent events have prostrated this military chief from his unmerited elevation, and he now finds himself on a level with the most humble.

NOTE F.— p. 50.

The economy practised in the purchase of lands may be exemplified by comparing the value of several parcels as estimated by the Assessors of the Town of Springfield, with the prices actually paid.

	Apprisal of Assessors.	Prices paid.
House and lot of Samuel Dale,	$1.066	$2.000
" of Jas. Brewer, (S H. Stebbins' place,)	2,000	3,000
Lot of Walter H. Bowdoin,	400	806
" of Geo. T Bond, (Popkins place,)	400	1,400
" of John Mills, (Starkey house and lot,)	4,000	8.230 for lot alone
" of W. H. Bowdoin, (Walker house & lot)	1,066	1,987
" of R. Shurtleff, (Byers cottage and lot,)	4,000	8,500 for lot alone
	12,932	25,933

The above apprisal of the Assessors is for the *real* value, and not the *reduced* value for taxation, being within a fraction of double the average. If a necessity existed for acquiring this property, there might be some justification for paying excessive prices, but it may be repeated, with entire confidence, that there is not the least necessity so far as the manufacturing or storage of arms is concerned, that the Government should own any part of it.

NOTE F. p. 61.

It is well known here, and it is proper that it should be known elsewhere, that the workmen in the Armory have originated and applied many of the useful inventions and improvements in the Armory, which have been of great advantage to the Government but for which the inventors have received no compensation whatever. On the contrary it has been usual when a new improvement has been devised whereby work is facilitated, the man who made the improvement is cut down proportionally in the price of his work.

The following letter written about the time of the noted "*Court of inquiry*" by John Robb Esq., who was more than seven years Superintendent of the Springfield Armory, and who was so highly recommended for his "invaluable" services by Col. Geo. Talcott—gives in distinct and graphic language, his estimate of the characters of a large number of the under officers and men who had been proscribed and expelled from their employments in the Armory, without a pretense on the part of the Despot who thus abuses his power, that any one of them had been deficient in duty in a single particular.

Springfield, March 19th, 1846.

DEAR SIR:—Your letter of this date, propounding to me the following interogatories, has been received.

First. Will you have the goodness to state whether the artizans whose names are herewith transmitted, and who were discharged from the Armory by Major Ripley, were men of good character, and possesed of competent skill to work upon the various branches at which they were employed; Also, as far as you can recollect, what were the branches upon which they were engaged at the time of your removal from the Superintendancy?

Second. How long did you occupy the quarters of the Superintendant? What was its condition when you left it? And whether in your opinion there could have been any material defects in the walls, timbers, or any part of said house when vacated by you, without your knowledge?

In answer to the above I have to state,

First. I am well acquainted with, Rufus Chandler, William Smith, John B.

Kirkham, John C. Stebbins, and Joseph Lombard. They were Inspectors. The two first named, of the work done at the upper water shop, the third of finished locks, the fourth of limbs of locks, and the fifth of welded barrels. They were competent, faithful Inspectors, and for known integrity and moral worth, would not have suffered by a comparison with any man or set of men in the town of Springfield. Erastus Hitchcock worked at finishing muskets, David Crowill at forging lock plates, Luther Cutler at half stocking, G. W. Harrison at finished stocking, Solomon C. Warner at drilling and tool making, Samuel Boylston at forging screws, Calvin Stebbins and Erastus H. Stebbins in the Arsenal. William H. Barber and Calvin Shattuck filing pans, Chester B Chappel at finishing muskets, J. C. Foster at straightening barrels, and mounting screws, John M. Foster and William Ferre at machinery, Henry Gunn at finishing muskets, Benjamin Hall at welding cocks, Samuel B. Hubbard at filing tumblers, Lewis McIntire at finishing locks, James Otis jr., at striking for a bayonet forger, Albert E. Rumrill at milling the limbs of locks, Jesse Ring at wheels, flumes &c., Samuel Russell at welding barrels, Solomon Roods at filing mounting, Isaac H. Smith at straightening barrels, John F. Stevens at carpenters work, James Sykes at filing mounting. Reuben Wood at heating steel for his father, whose branch was drawing and rounding ramrods, Edmund Warner at boring and straightening barrels and Erastus Woodward at grinding ramrods. These men in my opinion, were good workmen at the several branches in which they were employed,—of steady habits, and excellent moral character. In fine, I do not believe that the artizans at the Springfield Armory taken in the mass could have been surpassed by an equal number in any manufacturing establishment in the United States for intelligence industry, morality, and mechanical skill, and in support of the opinion as to good workmanship, it is only necessary to observe, that Col. Talcott remarked to me in 1839, that he would challenge the *world* to produce a musket superior to those made at the Springfield Armory. One man from the Armory was elected every year when an election took place, as a delegate to represent the town in the legislature of the State; and also, very frequently to the office of Selectman of the town.

Second. I occupied the Superintendents quarters about seven years and a half, and for further particulars, I refer you to my letter of the 20th of December 1843, addressed to Charles Stearns Esq. It may be proper also to remark, that if there had been any *material* defects in the walls, timbers, &c., it could not I think have escaped my notice. The state and condition of the house at the *time* it was vacated by me, was such as described in the letter above referred to.

Very respectfully your obediant servant,

JOHN ROBB.

D. H. Dustin Esq., Springfield.

Mr. Robb's description of the Superintendent's house is as follows:

Washington, December 20th, 1843.

The size of the house was I think about 42 by 38 feet,—materials brick—style modern, and the general arrangement excellent. On the south side were two beautiful parlors about 16½ feet square, communicating with each other by folding doors, four large windows in each room with inside shutters, and venetian blinds on the outside to each window in the house; in the center was a spacious hall eight feet wide, and on the north side were three rooms; a sitting, dining and store room. On the second floor were five chambers, four large, the other small, with closets, presses &c., the attic unfinished.

The back building was about 26 by 20 feet; large kitchen, buttery, well and sink rooms, and three rooms on the second floor. Portico in front of the house, and a piazza below in the rear and a fine paved cellar. I occupied the house seven years and a half and when vacated by me, it was in first rate order. When I was appointed Superintendent I resided in a house belonging to Col. Bomford. (very much inferior to the one in Springfield,) and for which I paid three hundred dollars per annum, and I feel no hesitation in saying, that such a one as I occupied in Springfield, would in the city of Washington have readily commanded five hundred dollars.

JOHN ROBB.

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